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# Proposed International Phonetic Conference

TO ADOPT A UNIVERSAL ALPHABET

TO SERVE AS PRONOUNCING KEY IN DICTIONARIES

*Discussion in the press  
is desired*

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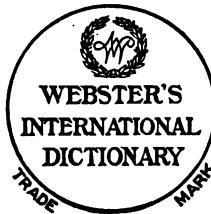
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## Proposed International Phonetic Conference to Adopt a Universal Alphabet.

### CIRCULAR INVITING OPINIONS.

BOSTON, MASS., February 27, 1905.

SIR: On August 26, 1904, Boston University, complying with a request endorsed by many prominent men (see foot-note, p. 3), issued a preliminary circular inviting opinions on the proposal to hold an international phonetic conference for the purpose of adopting a universal alphabet to serve as a key to pronunciation in the dictionaries of the leading languages.

The almost unanimous favor with which this suggestion has been received justifies a wider inquiry. The present circular is accordingly sent to some 3,000 university professors in the United States and Canada. The replies from these will constitute practically the verdict of the learned public and will be laid before those who have the means to make the conference a reality.

You will confer a favor by answering the enclosed questions with as much detail as your time permits, and returning at your early convenience.

The circular is also sent (without the question sheet) to all previous endorsers, many of them having expressed a desire to be kept informed of the progress of the movement.

The comments, criticisms, etc., printed herewith, may supply information to those unfamiliar with the subject.

The circumstances under which the circular is issued render it difficult to avoid duplication. Those who receive duplicates are requested to transmit them to persons likely to be interested in the subject.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM E. HUNTINGTON,  
President Boston University.

J. GEDDES, JR.,  
Prof. Romance Languages.

JOSEPH R. TAYLOR,  
Prof. Greek.

F. M. JOSSELYN, JR.,  
Prof. Romance Languages.

WILLIAM GOODWIN AURELIO,  
Asst. Prof. Greek.

GEORGE VAN WIEREN,  
Instructor in German.

THOMAS BOND LINDSAY,  
Prof. Latin and Sanscrit.

MARSHALL L. PERRIN,  
Prof. Germanic Languages.

E. CHARLTON BLACK,  
Prof. English Literature.

DALLAS B. SHARP,  
Asst. Prof. English.

ALEXANDER H. RICE,  
Asst. Prof. Latin

## REASONS FOR THIS INQUIRY.

### (1) NEED FOR A UNIVERSAL ALPHABET.

Every important dictionary, as a matter of necessity, uses a key to pronunciation; but owing to the multiplicity of keys, not one of them becomes familiar to the public. Hence their utility, even for dictionaries, is limited.

Now there is no reason why all dictionaries should not use the same key to pronunciation, and there is no reason why the letters composing that key should not have such form as would be most convenient also for ordinary writing and printing.

The Roman letters are already in use throughout the civilized world, with nearly identical values. By slight modifications of some of them, these letters could be so increased in number that they would suffice to represent all the elementary sounds of the leading languages. Sounds which are the same in the different languages would be represented by the same letters; for the few sounds peculiar to any language special letters would be devised.

Such a universal key to pronunciation would at once establish a *universally recognized phonetic spelling*. Students of foreign languages would of course find it exceedingly convenient to have the pronunciation indicated by a spelling already familiar to them. Hence it seems certain that such a key alphabet, *once introduced in all dictionaries*, would soon be used in all language manuals, primers, and readers, which, as a matter of necessity, are already using phonetic alphabets. Besides lightening the labor of the dictionary-user, this universal key alphabet would thus supply to every educated person a means to write every word of every leading language in such way that its pronunciation would be everywhere understood.

In brief, the number of persons who are willing and even compelled to learn phonetic alphabets is, after all, not inconsiderable. If all these can be induced to use the same alphabet (and this ought not to be difficult, since they have urgent reasons for so doing), that alphabet can hardly fail to become more or less familiar to the public at large.

### (2) PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ADOPTION OF A UNIVERSAL ALPHABET.

Phonetic spellings now look odd because they are (1) unauthorized, (2) unfamiliar—their unfamiliarity being due to the multiplicity of phonetic alphabets in use. A *universal* phonetic spelling, sanctioned by the highest *authority*, that of an international commission of experts, and made *familiar* by constant use, induced by motives of manifest utility, would soon cease to look odd.

Experiments have proved that children beginning with a phonetic spelling learn to read in a few weeks and master even the traditional spelling more readily than by the present method. Since primers would necessarily have to conform to the dictionaries in using the universal spelling to indicate pronunciation, it is probable that many schools would repeat the experiment of beginning the teaching of reading with this spelling. The advantage of so doing would be so striking that the practice would soon become universal.

Thus the existence of a universal alphabet would be a great convenience to everybody, even if the traditional spelling were retained. However, when the entire rising generation had become familiar with the phonetic spelling, it is probable that the traditional spelling would be felt to be a useless burden.

There are sixteen million school children in the United States. If it be true, as asserted, that the use of phonetic spelling would save to every child two years (one-fourth of the average school time) in learning to read and thru avoidance of spelling lessons, one may form an idea of what a gain this would be to the nation. It would become practically impossible for anyone to reach adult age without having learned to read.

## ENDORSEMENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC CONFERENCE.

As might be expected, the wording of the endorsements varies considerably. There is complete and enthusiastic unanimity as to the necessity of a uniform key to pronunciation for dictionaries. The great majority are also decidedly in favor of the gradual extension of phonetic writing into popular use, though a few question its practicability, at least at an early date.

## CALIFORNIA.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Berkeley:

Chambers, Samuel A., French.  
Clapp, Edward Bull, Greek.  
Merrill, W. A., Latin Lang. & Lit.  
Noyes, G. R., English & Slavic Philology.  
"Oral discussion eminently desirable."  
Senger, Henry, German.  
Voorsanger, Jacob, Semitic Lang. & Lit.

## STANFORD UNIVERSITY:

\*Jordan, David Starr, President.  
\*Matzke, John E., Romance Languages.  
(See p. 20.)  
\*Clark, George A., Secretary.  
\*Dodge, Melvin G., Librarian.  
Anderson, Melville B., English Literature.  
Cooper, W. A., German. "The oral discussion should be prolonged until the whole system thoroughly ripens."  
Newcomer, Alphonso G., English. "Oral discussion necessary."  
Rendtorff, Karl G., German. "Conference, of course."  
Rice, Carl C., Romance Lang.  
Seward, S. S., Jr., English. "Conference much the more practicable."

## COLORADO.

## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, Boulder:

Ayer, C. C., Romance Lang. "Oral conference necessary."  
COLORADO COLLEGE, Colorado Springs:  
Hills, E. C., Romance Lang. "Conference sounds more practicable."

## CONNECTICUT.

## WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, Middletown:

Chase, George Davis, Latin & Greek.  
(See p. 16.)  
Fife, Robert H., German. (See p. 17.)  
Kuhns, Oscar, Romance Languages.

## YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven:

Curdy, A. E., French.  
Goodell, Thomas Dwight, Greek. "The existence of such an alphabet would be a boon in many ways, and I am in favor of all reasonable means looking to that end."  
Root, Robert K., English. "I am heartily in sympathy with any plan which offers any hope of a generally accepted phonetic spelling."

## DELAWARE.

## DELAWARE COLLEGE, Newark:

Dawson, Edgar, English, History and Logic.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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\*\*Walcott, Dr. C. D., Director; Secretary Carnegie Institution.  
\*\*Becker, Dr. George F., Chief Div. Chemical & Physical Researches; Director Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution. (See p. 13.)  
\*\*Clarke, Dr. F. W., Chief Chemist.  
\*\*Day, Dr. Arthur L., Chief Physicist.  
\*\*Gannett, Henry, Chief Div. Topography; Chairman U. S. Board on Geographic Names.  
\*\*Wilson, H. M., Chief Eastern Section of Topography.  
\*Douglas, E. M., Chief Western Section of Topography.  
\*Hillebrand, Dr. W. F., Chemist.  
\*Allen, Dr. E. T., Chemist; Pres't. Washington Chem. Soc.  
\*\*Eldridge, G. H., Geologist.  
\*Warman, P. C., Editor.  
\*Wood, G. M., Assistant Editor.  
\*\*Day, Dr. David T., Chief Div. of Mining Statistics.  
\*Parker, E. W., Statistician; ex-Editor Engin. & Mining Journal; Member Coal Strike Arbitration Commission.  
\*\*Hayes, Dr. C. W., Geologist in charge of Geology.  
\*Kübel, S. J., Chief Engraving Division.  
\*\*Emmons, S. F., Geologist in charge of Economic Geology.  
\*Thompson, A. H., in charge Gov't Exhibit, World's Fair, St. Louis.  
\*\*G. K. Gilbert, Geologist in charge of Physiographic & Glacial Geology.  
\*\*Hague, Arnold, Geologist.  
\*\*Diller, J. S., Geologist.  
\*\*Weed, Walter Harvey, Geologist.  
\*\*Weeks, F. B., Librarian.  
\*\*Rizer, Col. H. C., Chief Clerk.

## BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY:

\*\*Holmes, W. H., Director.  
\*Mooney, James, Ethnologist.  
\*Huntington, Frank, Ethnologist.  
\*\*Hewitt, J. B. N., Ethnologist.

\*Denotes endorsements received before the issue of the preliminary circular by Boston University.

\*\*Denote those who recommended the issue of a circular on the subject.

Wood, Herbert S., Editor (now Dept. Commerce and Labor). (See p. 26.)

NATIONAL MUSEUM:

\*Mason, O. T., Curator Div. Ethnology.  
\*Geare, R. I., Chief Div. Correspondence & Documents.

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\*Gill, Dr. Theodore N., Zoologist.

\*Steineger, Leonhard, Curator Div. Reptiles and Batrachians.

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\*\*Harris, Dr. R. A.  
\*\*Perkins, F. W., Asst. Superintendent.  
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BUREAU OF FORESTRY:

\*\*Pinchot, Gifford, Forester in charge.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE:

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\*\*Tupper, J. B. T., Chief Law Division.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS:

\*\*Austin, O. P., Chief.

BUREAU OF STANDARDS:

\*\*Stokes, Dr. H. N., Chemist.  
Wolff, Dr. Frank A., Physicist. (See p. 25.)

WEATHER BUREAU:

\*\*Abbe, Prof. Cleveland, Editor Monthly Weather Review. (See p. 13.)

\*McGee, W. J., Chief Dept. Anthropology, World's Fair, St. Louis; Pres. National Geographic Society; Pres. Amer. Anthropological Assoc.

\*\*Chandler, Hon. W. E., ex-Senator from New Hampshire, ex-Secretary of the Navy; President Spanish Treaty Claims Commission. (See p. 15.)

\*\*Hitt, Hon. R. R., Chairman Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives; ex-Assistant Secretary of State.

Cushman, Hon. Francis W., House of Representatives.

\*Woodward, Prof. R. S., President Carnegie Institution.

Spanhoofd, Arnold Werner, Director of German Instruction in the High Schools.

GEORGIA.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, Athens:  
Morris, John, Germanic Lang.

AGNES SCOTT INSTITUTE, Atlanta:  
Farrar, Thomas J., English. "Conference by all means."

EMORY COLLEGE, Oxford:  
W. L. Weber.

SHORTER COLLEGE, Rome:  
Hopper, Georgia E.

ILLINOIS.

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY,  
Bloomington:

Austin, Francis M., Latin.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

Harper, William R., President.  
Blackburn, F. A., English. (See p. 14.)  
Buck, Carl D., Sanscrit & Compar. Indo-Europ. Philology.

Jenkins, T. A., French Philology. "Oral discussion indispensable."

Talbot, Marion, A. M., LL. D., Dean of Women.

Wood, Francis A., Germanic Philology.

LEWIS INSTITUTE, Chicago:

Lewis, E. H. English.

Carus, Dr. Paul, Editor Open Court & Monist, P. O. Drawer F, Chicago.  
Hurst, W. H., 1430 Madison street, Chicago.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Evanston:  
Curme, George Oliver, Germanic Philol.  
Hatfield, James Taft, German Language and Lit.

MORGAN PARK ACADEMY, Morgan Park:  
Burgess, Isaac B., Latin. "There should be an extended conference."

Vaile, E. O., Editor The Intelligence, Primary School Era, The Week's Current. Oak Park. (See p. 25.)

Blackmer, O. C., Treas. Type Fund, Life Member Spelling Reform Ass'n., Oak Park.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana:  
Baldwin, Edward Chauncey, English Lit.  
Brooks, Neil Conwell, German.  
Clark, Thomas Arkle, Rhetoric.  
Oliver, Thomas, French. (See p. 21.)

INDIANA.

DE PAUW UNIVERSITY, Greencastle:  
Longden, Henry B.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, Bloomington:  
Nollen, John S., German. "An international conference—with a definite program—can do the work best."  
Tilden, F. W., Greek. "A meeting for discussion would be necessary."

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, Franklin:  
Brown, Francis W., Latin Lang. & Lit.  
"Oral discussion the most feasible and by far the most satisfactory."

## IOWA.

IOWA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, Cedar Falls:

Knoepfler, J. B., German. "Correspondence insufficient."

## IOWA COLLEGE, Grinnell:

Burnet, Percy B., German, French & Spanish. "Such a task must be left with a very few." (See p. 15.)

Main, J. H. T., Dean of Faculty.

Millerd, Clara G., Greek & Philosophy.

## SIMPSON COLLEGE, Indianola:

Shelton, Chas. Eldred, Pres.

## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, Iowa City:

Ansley, C. F., English. "The conference is necessary."

Bush, Stephen H., French.

Eastman, Clarence Willis, German. (See p. 17.)

Van Steenderen, F. C. L., A. M. French Lang. & Lit.

## KANSAS.

Ewert, J. G., Instructor in Ancient and Modern Languages, Hillsboro.

## UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, Lawrence:

Bassett, R. E., Romance Languages. "By all means, all possible discussion should be had."

Carruth, W. H., German Philology. "Both personal discussion and correspondence and conferences, not one but many."

Lawrence, William W., English Lit.

Ruppenthal, J. C., Russell.

## KENTUCKY.

STATE COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY, Lexington:

Wernicke, P., German, French, Spanish.

## LOUISIANA.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, Baton Rouge:

Read, William A., English. "Oral discussion is absolutely necessary."

TULANE UNIVERSITY, New Orleans:

Fortier, Alcée, Romance Lang.

Sharp, Robert, Prof. English. (See p. 23.)

## MAINE.

BATES COLLEGE, Lewiston:

Anthony, Alfred Williams, New Testament Exegesis & Criticism; Pres. Science Section Maine Acad. Medicine & Sci. "Personal conference of experts seems to me desirable, almost imperative."

Leonard, A. N., German. "Much can be done by correspondence; oral discussion will be necessary."

BOWDOIN COLLEGE, New Brunswick: Chapman, Henry L., English Lit.

## UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, Orono:

Harrington, Karl P., Latin. "Discussion in full."

Huddilston, J. H., Greek. "Correspondence would be likely to effect very little."

## MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE, Baltimore:

Becker, Ernest J., Ph. D., German and English.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Baltimore:

\*Elliott, A. Marshall, Romance Lang. (See p. 17.)

\*Bright, James W., English Philology.

\*Scripture, E. W., Experimental Phonetics.

Armstrong, Edward C., French.

Marden, C. Carroll, Spanish.

Vos, B. J., German.

Wood, Henry, German.

THE WOMAN'S COLLEGE, Baltimore:

Froelicher, Hans, German.

Van Deman, Esther Boise, Latin. "Correspondence is not sufficient."

## MASSACHUSETTS.

AMHERST COLLEGE, Amherst:

Nitze, Wm. A., Romance Lang.

PHILLIPS ACADEMY, Andover:

Newton, Walter R., German.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston:

\*Huntington, William E., Pres.

\*Coit, Judson B., Mathematics & Astron.

\*Rowe, Henry K., History.

\*Josselyn, F. M., Jr., Romance Lang.

\*Sharp, Dallas B., English.

\*Taylor, Joseph R., Greek.

\*Lindsay, Thomas Bond, Latin & Sans.

\*Rice, Alexander H., Latin.

\*Perrin, Marshall L., Germanic Langs.

\*Black, E. Charlton, English Literature.

\*Fall, George H., Political & Jural Institutions.

\*Bowne, Borden P., Philosophy.

\*Bruce, Robert E., Mathematics.

\*Baldwin, F. Spencer, Political Economy & Social Science.

\*Warren, William Marshall, Philosophy.

\*Aurelio, William Goodwin, Asst. Prof. Greek.

\*Van Wieren, Georg, German.

\*Geddes, J., Jr., Romance Lang.

ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, Boston:

Beatley, James A., German & Music.

Snow, William B., French.

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, Boston:

Thurwanger, Camille, Elocution.

ROXBURY HIGH SCHOOL, Boston:

Kagan, Josiah M., German.

Lowell, D. O. S. "The second proposition [conference] by all means."

Conover, Miss Elizabeth D., 66 Mount Vernon, Boston.

Herbert, Albert, President Hub Gore Makers, Boston. (See p. 18.)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge:

\*Grandgent, C. H., Romance Lang.

\*Schofield, W. H., English.

\*Wright, C. H. C., French.

\*Ford, J. D. M., Spanish & Italian.

\*Willson, Robert W., Astronomy.

\*Byerly, W. E., Mathematics.

\*Howard, Albert A., Latin.

\*Von Jagemann, H. C. G., German.

Bierwirth, H. C., German.

Howard, William Guild, German; Treasurer Mod. Lang. Assoc.

Moore, Clifford H., Greek & Latin Lang. & Lit.

Hayes, Alice, 2 Mercer Circle, Cambridge.

Ingraham, Andrew, 4 Bryant street, Cambridge. (See p. 18.)

Piper, William Taggard, Ph. D., 179 Brattle street, Cambridge.

GROTON SCHOOL, Groton:

Higley, Edwin H. "An oral discussion is very desirable."

SMITH COLLEGE, Northampton:

Pellissier, Adeline, French.

Scott, Mary Augusta, English Lang. & Lit. (See p. 23.)

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE, South Hadley:

Hinsdale, Ellen C., German Philology. Young, Mary Vance, Romance Langs.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE, Williamstown:

Carter, Dr. Franklin, ex-President, ex-Prof. German Lang. & Lit. Yale Univ. (See p. 15.)

WORCESTER CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL, Worcester:

Abbot, William F., Latin & Greek.

#### MICHIGAN.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor:

\*Russell, Israel C., Geology.

\*Kelsey, Francis W., Latin.

\*D'Ooge, Martin L., Greek Lang. & Lit.

\*Hempl, George, English Philology & General Linguistics; President American Philological Assoc.; Pronouncing Editor New Worcester Dictionary and Hinds, Noble & Eldridge's International Dictionary.

Bartlett, Geo. M., Drawing & Descriptive Geometry.

Canfield, Arthur G., Romanic Langs. & Lits. "I have no doubt of the great advantage, if not necessity, of the conference."

Dickhoff, Tobias, German.

Meader, C. L., Latin, Sanscrit & Compar. Philology. (See p. 20.)

Scott, Fred. Newton, Rhetoric.

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE, Kalamazoo:

Williams, Geo. A., Greek. "A conference is the only satisfactory plan."

Mott, John M., author of Phonology and Phonotype; South Haven, R. F. D. route No. 2. (See p. 20.)

STATE NORMAL COLLEGE, Ypsilanti:

D'Ooge, Benj. L., Latin. "Correspondence first, then oral discussion."

Lombard, Mary Joy, French & German.

#### MINNESOTA.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Minneapolis:

McClumphay, C. F., English Lit.

#### MISSOURI.

Schoch, Alfred D., Ph. D., Bonne Terre.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, Columbia:

\*Jesse, R. H., President.

\*Thilly, F., Philosophy.

\*Allen, E. C., English Philology.

\*Penn, H. A., English Philology.

\*Scott, J. R., Elocution.

\*Hill, A. Ross, Philosophy.

\*Weeks, Raymond, Romance Languages, Director Laboratory of Phonetics. (See p. 25.)

\*Brown, W. G., Chemistry.

\*Belden, H. M., English Lang. & Lit.

Almstedt, Hermann B., Dept. of German.

Brown, Calvin S., Mod. Lang.

Lewis, Mary Elizabeth, Adviser of Women.

Miller, W. McN., Pathology & Bacteriology.

Roberts, V. H., Law. "Oral discussion is a prime requisite."

Sturtevant, E. H., Latin. "I should think the oral discussion quite essential."

KANSAS CITY M. T. HIGH SCHOOL, Kansas City:

\*Rambeau, Dr. A., Director of Foreign Language Instruction; Co-Editor "Die Neueren Sprachen." "Before we have a uniform phonetic alphabet made by phonetists, I do not believe in any spelling reform."

Werner, N. J., Printer, Type Designer and Type Founder, 3721 Cottage ave., St. Louis.

#### NEBRASKA.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, Lincoln:

Barber, Grove E., Latin.

Grummann, Paul H., Germanic Langs.; Assoc. Editor Journal of English & Germanic Philology. "Conference necessary." (See p. 18.)

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY, Exeter:  
Rogers, George B., Latin.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Hanover:  
Burton, H. E., Latin. "Oral discussion  
necessary."

## NEW JERSEY.

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,  
Hoboken:

Kroeh, Chas. F., Mod. Langs. "It should  
have thorough, deliberate, prolonged oral  
discussion. I have been preaching this  
reform for 30 years."

RUTGERS COLLEGE, New Brunswick:  
Bevier, Louis, Jr., Greek.

Davis, Edwin B., Romance Lang.

LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL, Lawrenceville:  
Bronson, Thomas B., Head Mod. Lang.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, Princeton:  
Blau, Max F., German.

Hunt, Theodore W., English Lang. & Lit.

Prentice, Wm. K., Greek.

## NEW YORK.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE LIBRARY  
AND HOME EDUCATION, ALBANY:

Dewey, Melvil, Director; Secretary Spell-  
ing Reform Assoc. (See p. 17.)

WELLS COLLEGE, Aurora:  
Case, Mary Emily, Latin. "Oral discus-  
sion almost necessary."

ADELPHI COLLEGE, Brooklyn:  
Lawton, Wm. C., Greek Lang. & Lit.  
"Conference infinitely more desirable."

Howard, Matthew N., 488 Nostrand  
ave., Brooklyn.

Winslow, Miss Julia E., 31 Sidney  
Place, Brooklyn.

HAMILTON COLLEGE, Clinton:  
Brandt, H. C. G., German. "It will take  
much correspondence even before and  
after meetings."

ELMIRA COLLEGE, Elmira:  
Hamilton, H. A., Greek.

Harris, M. Anstee, Dean.

HOBART COLLEGE, Geneva:  
Turk, Milton Haight, English Lang. &  
Lit. & Horace White Prof. Rhetoric  
& Elocution.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY, Hamilton:  
Greene, John, Latin.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, Ithaca:  
Howe, George M., German

## COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:

Perrin, Ernest Noël, English.

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York:

\*Thomas, Calvin, Head of Dept. of Ger-  
manic Languages.

\*Matthews, Brander, Dramatic Litera-  
ture. (See p. 20.)

\*Woodward, R. S., Mechanics; President  
Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C.

Bargy, Henry, Romance Lang. & Lit.

Botsford, George Willis, Ancient History.

Carpenter, G. R., Rhetoric.

Doane, Howard F., Latin. (See p. 17.)

Fitz-Gerald, John D., French, Spanish, &

Romance Philology.

Kind, John L., German.

Krapp, George Philip, English. "I think  
a convention, with oral discussion of the  
problems, is a necessary preliminary."

Neilson, W. O., English.

Speranza, C. L., Italian.

## IRVING SCHOOL, New York:

Hussey, George B., Latin & Greek.

## NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, New York:

Balliet, Thomas M., Dean of School of  
Pedagogy. (See p. 13.)

Stoddard, Francis H., English Lang. &  
Lit.

Waters, William E., Greek. "I see much  
good to be secured through such a confer-  
ence, and I am happy to give it my en-  
dorsement."

\*Funk, Dr. I. K., Editor Standard Dic-  
tionary, Funk & Wagnalls, Publishers,  
New York.

\*Rickard, T. A., Editor Engineering &  
Mining Journal, New York.

\*Scott, C. P. G., Etymological Editor  
Century Dictionary, Century Co., Union  
Square, New York. (See p. 23.)

\*Smith, Benj. E., Editor Century Dic-  
tionary, Century Co., Union Sq., New  
York.

\*Struthers, Dr. Jos., Asst. Editor Amer.  
Inst. Mining Engineers, New York.

Ward, William Hayes, Editor The In-  
dependent, New York.

Roy, Rev. James, LL. D., Niagara  
Falls, Station A; formerly French tutor  
Victoria College, Toronto, Canada, etc.

VASSAR COLLEGE, Poughkeepsie:  
Buck, Gertrude, Ph. D., English.

ACADEMY OF HIGHER SCIENCES, 62 East  
Ave., Rochester:

E. D. Babbitt, M. D., Dean.

CHRISTIAN BIBLICAL INSTITUTE, Stan-  
fordville:

Weston, Rev. J. B., D. D., President.

"There cannot be critical discussion of  
sounds and signs of them except from  
mouth to ear." (See p. 25.)

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, Syracuse:  
Cabeen, C. W., Romance Langs. & Lits.  
Morris, Edgar C., English.

NORTH CAROLINA.

ASHEVILLE SCHOOL, Asheville:  
Mitchell, Chas. A., Prin. (Prof. Greek).  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
Chapel Hill:  
Smith, C. Alphonso, English; Dean of  
Dept. of Graduate Studies.

NORTH DAKOTA.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Fargo:  
Batt, Max, Mod. Lang.

OHIO.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, Athens:  
Rhoades, Lewis A.  
Super, Chas. W., Pres.; Prof. Greek.  
"Oral discussion first."  
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI,  
Cincinnati:  
Brown, Edward Miles, English Philology.  
ADALBERT COLLEGE, Cleveland:  
Briggs, William Dinsmore, English.  
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY,  
Cleveland:  
Emerson, O. F., English.  
Harris, Charles, German.

KENYON COLLEGE, Gambier:  
Newhall, Barker, Greek.  
West, Henry T., German.  
OBERLIN COLLEGE, Oberlin:  
Wightman, J. R., Romance Lang.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, Oxford:  
Brandon, Edgar Ewing, French Lang. &  
Lit. "Oral discussion is certainly prefer-  
able."  
James, A. W., German Lang. & Lit.

LAKE ERIE COLLEGE, Painesville:  
Ross, Annie, French.  
Walker, Mrs. Amanda A., German.

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY, Wilber-  
force:  
Scarborough, W. S., President.

WOOSTER UNIVERSITY, Wooster:  
Seelye, William J., Greek.

OREGON.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene:  
Carson, Luella Clay, Rhetoric & Am. Lit.  
Schmidt, F. G. G., Dr., Mod. Lang. "An  
agreement by correspondence alone is a  
vision and a delusion. An oral discus-  
sion seems absolutely necessary."

PENNSYLVANIA.

HIGH SCHOOL, Allegheny:  
Smith, W. L., Principal. "Only an oral  
discussion can bring about the desired  
result."

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE, Bryn Mawr:  
De Haan, F., Spanish. "By correspond-  
ence impossible. Endorse with pleasure  
provided the word civilized be not used  
when speaking of languages."  
Gerould, Gordon Hall, English Philology.  
Schinz, A., Dept. Romance Languages.  
S. W. STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, California:  
Livingstone, Dale.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, Easton:

\*March, F. A., English & Compar. Philol-  
ogy; Pres. Spelling Reform Assoc.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, Philadelphia:  
Haney, John Louis, Ph. D., English and  
History. "I recognize that this move-  
ment is one of the greatest importance  
and take pleasure in endorsing it."

DR LANCEY SCHOOL, Philadelphia:

Jodocius, Dr. Albert, French, Spanish,  
Italian.

NORTHEAST MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL,  
Philadelphia:

Whitaker, L., English.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Phila.:

\*Child, Clarence C., English. (See p. 16.)  
Easton, Morton W., Compar. Philology  
& English. "It is most certainly desir-  
able that all branches of the trade be rep-  
resented. But a skilled compositor  
would be most useful."

Learned, M. D., Germanic Lang.

Rolfe, John C., Latin.

Schelling, F. E., History & English Lit.  
Shumway, Daniel B., German. (See p.  
23.)

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE  
SCHOOLS, Scranton:

Lamaze, Edouard, Prin. School of French.

STATE COLLEGE:

Foster, Irving L., Romance Lang.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, Swarthmore:  
Battin, Benj. F., German.

RHODE ISLAND.

BROWN UNIVERSITY, Providence:  
Jonas, J. B. E., Germanic Languages &  
Literatures. (See p. 18.)

SOUTH CAROLINA.

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE, Columbia:  
Joynes, Edward S., Mod. Lang.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia:  
Wauchope, Geo. Armstrong, English.

TENNESSEE.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, Knoxville:  
Darnall, Henry Johnston, Mod. Lang. "Correspondence about sounds is unsatisfactory. Oral discussion absolutely necessary."

Karns, T. C., late Prof. Philosophy & Pedagogics. "Full preparatory work should be done by correspondence and then a meeting should be held."

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE, Nashville:  
Little, Chas. E., Prof. Latin, Peabody College for Teachers. "The conference is the idea."

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, Nashville:  
Kip, Herbert Z., German. "Conference after preliminary correspondence." (See p. 19.)

Steele, R. B., Latin.

WALDEN UNIVERSITY, Nashville:  
Birmingham, Rev. Daniel Moschel (Park Row Bldg., New York).

TEXAS.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, Austin:  
Fay, Edwin W., Compar. Philology. "Conference, by all means."

Primer, Sylvester, Germanic Langs.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, Waco:  
Hargrove, H. L., English. "Deliberate discussion by experts."

VIRGINIA.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Charlottesville:  
Garnett, James Mercer, formerly Prof. English.

Harrison, James A., Teutonic Langs.

RANDOLPH-MACON WOMEN'S COLLEGE, College Park, Lynchburg:  
Armstrong, Joseph L., English. "Entirely too much time is lost in English lands in learning to spell and in trying to keep what has been learnt."

Bowen, Edwin W., Latin.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, Lexington:

Crow, C. L., Mod. Lang. "A conference is necessary."

Currell, W. S., English.

RICHMOND COLLEGE, Richmond:  
Harris, W. A., Greek.

F. M. S., Waynesboro:

Blain, Hugh M., Principal. "Oral discussion not only desirable but the only sure way." (See p. 14.)

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY, Williamsburg:  
Bishop, Charles Edward, Greek, French and German.

WASHINGTON.

SAUNDERSON SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION, Seattle:  
Saunderson, Geo. W., Principal; Literature, Rhetoric, Oratory. (See p. 22.)

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle:  
Frein, Pierre Joseph, French. "A conference is by far the most satisfactory way."

Haggett, A. S., Greek.

Thomson, David, Latin. "Complete discussion is, in my opinion, absolutely necessary."

Terry, Major Frank, 3816 South L street, Tacoma.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla:  
Anderson, Louis F., Greek. To Question 8: "Yes, that is the way I was first taught."

WEST VIRGINIA.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, Morgantown:  
Truscott, F. W., German.

WISCONSIN.

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY, Appleton:  
Wright, Ellsworth D., Latin Lang. & Lit.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, Madison:  
\*Van Hise, C. R., President.

Gay, Lucy M., French.

Hohlfeld, A. R., German. President Central Section, Mod. Lang. Assoc. "I think that an international conference of leading scholars is absolutely necessary."

Meisnest, F. W., German.

Roedder, Edwin C., German Philology.

RIPON COLLEGE, Ripon:  
Shearin, H. G., English Lang. & Lit. "To get concrete results, the conference is necessary."

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, Stevens Point:  
Sechrist, Frank K., in charge Dept. English Lang. & Lit. (See p. 23.)

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Wise, Henry, Bacnotan, Union. (See p. 25.)

## FOREIGN.

Most of the foreign correspondents are members of the International Phonetic Association.

## AUSTRALIA.

Dechend, W. V., Lecturer on German Language and Literature, University, Melbourne. (See p. 16.)

Maurice-Carton, F. I., M. A., Lect. French, Univ. Melbourne.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Balassa, Dr. J., VII Kertesz-ucza 33sz., Budapest. (See p. 13.)

Gartner, Dr. Theodor, Rom. Phil., Univ., Innsbruck.

Nader, E., Prof. German & English, Staatsrealschule I Bezirk, Vienna.

Schuchardt, Dr. Hugo, Univ. Graz.

Voigt, Robert, Prof. an der Landes-Oberrealschule in Waidhofen an der Ybbs, Lower Austria.

Wickerhauser, Natalie, Teacher of Modern Languages at the Lyceum of Zagreb (Agram), Hrvatska (Croatia). "Neither the telephone nor the phonograph can make up for oral discussion; the latter also saves much time and trouble."

## BELGIUM.

Logeman, W., University of Ghent. (See p. 19.)

Monsieur, Eugène, Sanscrit & Compar. Philology, University of Brussels. (See p. 20.)

## BRAZIL.

Nobiling, Oskar, Rua Galvao Bueno, 120, S. Paulo.

## CANADA.

Hogarth, E. S., B. A., Mod. Lang., Normal College, Hamilton, Ont.

Kennelly, D. J., K. C., Louisburg, C. B., Nova Scotia. (See p. 18.)

McGoun, Arch., K. C., Prof. Civil Law, McGill University, Montreal. (See p. 20.)

## CHILE.

Brosseau, Jorje, Prof. French, Instituto Pedagogico, Instituto Nacional, Escuela Militar, Santiago.

## FINLAND.

Gustafsson, F., litterarum latinarum in universitate Helsingforsiensi professor publ. ord. (See p. 26.)

Wallingkiöld, A., Docent of Romance Philology, Helsingfors. "Conference and correspondence."

## FRANCE.

Barbeau, A., Engl., University, Caen. "Oral discussion necessary."

\*Barés, Jean S., editor Le Réformiste, 18 rue du Mail, Paris. (See p. 13.)

Begouën de Meaux, 9 rue du Marché Neuf, Versailles.

Blondel, Georges, Economie Sociale, Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerce, Paris.

Chambonnaud, L., 24 rue Manigne, Limoges. "Oral discussion is much better."

"Noël Dolens," author, Care P. V. Stock, libraire-éditeur, 27 rue de Richelieu, Paris.

Ferroud, Ch., instituteur, Chambéry-le-Vieux, Savoie. "An international conference seems to me not only useful but necessary."

Giard, Alfred, Membre de l'Institut, Prof. à la Sorbonne, Paris. (See p. 18.)

Havet, Louis, Membre de l'Institut, Paris.

Henry, Victor, Prof. Sorbonne, Paris.

Ledeboer, Anna F., 8 rue de la Pompe, Passy, Paris.

Panconcelli-Calzia, Giulio, 6 Quai des Orfèvres, Paris.

\*Passy, Dr. Paul, Directeur adjoint à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris, Secretary International Phonetic Association. (See p. 21.)

\*Renard, Auguste, Agrégé de l'Université, Caen. (See p. 22.)

## GERMANY.

Branscheid, Oberlehrer Dr., Schleusingen, Thüringen. (See p. 14.)

Brenner, Dr. Oskar, Univ. Würzburg. (See p. 14.)

Bretegnier, Ch. E., Evang. Pädagogicum, Gadesberg am Rhein.

Burger, Elisabeth, Stettensches Institut, Augsburg. (See p. 15.)

Curtis, Prof. Dr., Acad. Soc. and Commerc. Sciences, Frankfurt am Main.

Diederichs, August, Direktor a. D., Arndtstr. 27, Bonn. (See p. 17.)

Dörr, F., Head Master of the Liebig Realschule, Frankfurt - am - Main - Bockenheim.

Geyer, Ludwig, Reallehrer, Dürkheim a. H., Rheinpfalz, Bavaria. "An agreement on this point will be reached only by oral discussion."

Goldschmidt, Dr. M., Oberlehrer, Naumburg a. L.

Haag, Prof. Dr. Carl, Stuttgart.

Hartmann, Selma, Lehrerin, Marktstr. 47, Neuwied a. Rh.

Henschel, Berlin S. O. 33, Lübbenerstr. 22 II. (See p. 18.)

Kewitsch, Prof. Dr. Georg, Freiburg i. B.

Krause, Seminarlehrer, Osterburg, Reg. Bez. Magdeburg.

Kühn, Prof. Dr., Knausstrasse 2, Wiesbaden.

Matzat, Henry, Director Agricultural High School, Weilburg a. L.

Michaelis, H., Rector, Kaiserstr. 44, Biebrich a. Rh.

Morf, Prof. Dr. H., Acad. Soc. and Com-  
merc. Sciences, Frankfurt am Main.  
"I think the attempt should be made,  
and that only a well prepared congress  
with oral discussion can accomplish the  
object."

Rossmann, Dr. Ph., Oberlehrer, Wies-  
baden. "First correspondence and  
then a phonetic conference."

Schmidt, O. F., Gymnas.-Oberlehrer,  
Magnusstr. 12, Cologne. "Conference  
necessary."

Spieser, J., Waldhambach, Elsass. (See  
p. 24.)

Storch, Prof. Dr. Teodor, Schöne Aus-  
sicht 6, Meiningen.

Suchier, Prof., Roman. Phil., Univ.,  
Halle. "Oral discussion would be de-  
sirable, even necessary."

Tönnies, Ferdinand, Univers. Kiel

Trautmann, Moritz, Prof. Dr., Engl.  
Phil., Univ., Bonn. (See p. 24.)

\*Viëtor, Dr. Wilhelm, Prof. English Phi-  
lology, Univ. Marburg; President In-  
ternational Phonetic Association. (See  
p. 25.)

Walter, Max, Head Master of the Real-  
gymnasium "Musterschule," Frank-  
furt am Main.

#### HOLLAND.

Kramers, Martina G., Recording Secre-  
tary International Council of Women;  
92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam.

#### ITALY.

Manfredini, Beniamino, Prof. Regio  
Ginnasio, Treasurer Ital. Mod. Lang.  
Assoc., Sezze, Rome. "My reply is  
not only in my own name but in the  
name of the Italian Association of  
Teachers of Foreign Languages, whose  
President is Prof. Lovera, President of  
the School of Commerce, Palermo."

Rajna, Pio, Institute of Higher Studies,  
Florence. "I think oral discussion ab-  
solutely necessary, and I believe that the  
decisions should not be regarded as ab-  
solutely definitive until they have been dis-  
cussed by those who have not participated  
in the conference. It seems to me, there-  
fore, that one conference would not be  
enough."

#### PORTUGAL.

Lopes, Daniel, Prof. French Lang. & Lit.  
Curso Superior de Letras, Lisbon.  
(See p. 20.)

Rósa, Ernesto Carlos, Rua D. Vasco,  
Palacio Belmonte, Belém.

Viana, A. R. Gonçalvez L. de D., Este-  
fania 11-3, Lisbon.

#### RUSSIA.

Baudouin de Courtenay, Prof. Dr. J.,  
General Linguistics & Sanscrit, Univ.  
St. Petersburg.

\*Novicow, Jacques, ex-Vice-President  
International Institute of Sociology,  
8 rue de la Poste, Odessa. (See p. 21.)

#### SCANDINAVIA.

##### DENMARK.

Black, F., Teacher French & English,  
Cathedral Grammar School, Odense.  
(See p. 26.)

Cloos, Christian, Frederikshavn. (See  
p. 16.)

Forchhammer, G., Director Royal Deaf  
and Dumb Institution, Nyborg. (See  
p. 18.)

Kristensen, Marius, editor "Danske  
Studier," Prof. at Flors Höjskole,  
Askov.

Mörch, Aage, Adjunkt, Herlufsholm,  
Nestved.

Simonsen, Elna, 58 Nørrebrogade, Copen-  
hagen. (See p. 24.)

Smidt, L. J., M. A., Blaagaardsgade,  
Copenhagen.

Thygesen, Ebbe, Romersgade 23, Co-  
penhagen. "It cannot be discussed sat-  
isfactorily by correspondence."

##### NORWAY.

Hermanstorff, Lyder, Drammen  
Skaaden, J., Adjunkt (Master of Second-  
ary Schools), Stavanger.

Western, Dr. Aug., Fredriksstad. (See  
p. 25.)

#### SWEDEN (Uppsala University)

Fuhrken, G. E., M. A., Ph. D., English.  
Meyer, Ernst A., Dr. Phil., German.  
Noreen, Adolf, Scandinavian Languages.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

##### ENGLAND.

Axon, Hon. William E. A., LL. D., F. R.  
S. L., 6 Cecil street, Manchester. (See  
p. 13.)

Bagnall, Charlotte E. H., B. ès L., High  
School, Clapham Common, London,  
S. W.

Baring, Cecil, 8 Bishopsgate street with-  
in, London, E. C.

Bullock, Fred, Teacher of French,  
County Technical School, Stafford.

Craig, Robert C., Mod. Lang. Master,  
Lockers Park, Hemel Hempstead.  
(See p. 16.)

Drummond, H., Laburnum House, Hel-  
ton-le-Hole, R. S. O. "Clear the air  
by correspondence in literary and sci-  
entific press until public mind is educated;  
then confer—if alive."

Evans, John, Senior Mod. Lang. Master, Leeds Grammar School. "*The great danger is over-elaboration for popular use.*"

Gatschling, Andreas, 25 Langdon road, Junction road, London.

Haddon, Dr. Alfred C., F. R. S., Lecturer in Ethnology, Cambridge. "*A universal alphabet would be of the greatest service in recording the languages of uncivilized people.*"

Hayes, Alfred E., 49 Vicarage Road, Leyton, Essex. "*I think face-to-face discussion by the highest authorities absolutely essential.*"

Kettle, Frederick, Clapham Boys' High School, Clapham S.W., London. "*Discussion and correspondence and, if possible, a journal for propaganda!*" (See p. 18.)

Lloyd, R. J., The University, Liverpool.

Lodge, T. T., Helton-le-Hole, R. S. O. "*Let the question of the number and quality of sounds to be represented be settled by correspondence, then call a conference.*"

Payen-Payne, D. V., 45 Nevern square, Earl's Court, London S.W.

Poole, W. Mansfield, Royal Naval College, Osborne. "*A conference is absolutely essential.*"

Rees, Rev. Fred. A., Union church, Edge Lane, Stratford, Manchester. To Question 8: "*My child has been taught by this method with eminently satisfactory results.*"

Richards, S. A., B. A., Lecturer in French, Northern Polytechnic, London N. (See p. 22.)

Siepmann, Otto, Head of Mod. Lan. Dept., Clifton College, Clifton-Bristol. (See p. 24.)

Skeat, Walter W., Litt. D., Anglo-Saxon, Univ., Cambridge. "*It requires oral discussion.*"

Smith, G. C. Moore, M. A., Engl. Lang. and Lit., University College, Sheffield.

Thouaille, Albert, M. ès A., 2 Victoria St., Manchester. "*A conference is almost absolutely necessary.*"

Trieder, H. W., Northbrook House, Bishop's Waltham, Hants.

Von Lutitz, Miss H., 23 Larkhall Rise, Clapham, London S.W.

Workman, W. P., M. A., B. S., Kingwood School, Bath.

## IRELAND.

Staples, Jas. Head, Lissan, Co. Tyrone (Porttown, Cookstown). (See p. 24.)

## SCOTLAND.

Baxters, D., 10 Gladstone Pl., Leith.

Hill, W. Herbert, M. A. (Lond.), Lecturer on Phonetics, University College, Dundee.

Thomson, William, B. A., Hutcheson's Girls' Grammar School, Glasgow. "*Oral discussion necessary.*"

## QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENTS.

The following, though opposed to spelling reform, declared themselves in favor of a phonetic conference, to adopt a uniform scientific key to pronunciation:

Arctowski, Henryk, Member Belgian Antarctic Expedition, 103 rue Royale, Brussels, Belgium. "*A small number of men, each knowing as many languages as possible, ought to work together for several weeks at least.*"

Babbitt, E. H., German, Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.

Bradley, Cornelius B., Rhetoric, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.

Briggs, Thomas H., Jr., English Lit. and Rhetoric, Eastern Illinois State Normal School, Charleston, Ill.

Delage, Yves, Membre de l'Institut de France, Prof. de Zoologie à la Faculté des Sciences, Paris, France.

Dottin, Prof. Université, Rennes, France.

Eykman, L. P. H., 4 Willemsparkweg, Amsterdam, Holland.

Gleason, Clarence W., Greek and Latin, Roxbury Latin School, Mass.

McKenzie, Kenneth, Romance Languages, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Molenaar, Dr. Heinrich, 5 Holzkirchnerstrasse, Munich, Germany.

Oftedal, J. W., Adjunkt, Arendal, Norway.

Post, Edwin, De Pauw University, Greencastle, Ind.

Riess, Ernst, Ph. D., Latin and Greek, De Witt Clinton High School, New York.

Ritschel, Director Augustin, Plan bei Marienbad, Bohemia, Austria.

Rivard, Adjutor, University, Quebec, Canada.

Shorey, Paul, Greek Lit., University of Chicago.

White, Alain C., 560 Fifth Ave., New York.

White, Andrew C., Assistant Librarian and Reader in Greek, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Thirty-three correspondents declined to permit the use of their names. Several of these were actuated solely by dislike of publicity, since they profess to be heartily in sympathy with the movement. Others declare themselves incompetent to express an opinion; others confine themselves to a general expression of doubt. Seven are opposed to any attempt to meddle with the traditional spelling. The utility of a conference is called in question by only 14 out of 501 or 2.8%.

## COMMENTS (CONDENSED).\*

PROF. CLEVELAND ABBE, EDITOR MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, WEATHER BUREAU,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., MEMBER NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

I cannot imagine a more powerful aid to the diffusion of the English language than the introduction of a uniform system of letters and rules for their use for all languages. When every foreigner finds the pronunciation accurately indicated by the spelling, and in a way with which he is already familiar in his own language, the principal difficulty in learning English will have disappeared.

I place the education of the world in the English language as first in importance toward the unification of all races.

HON. WILLIAM E. A. AXON, LL. D., F. R. S. L., MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

I have for many years been an advocate of phonetic spelling, but have realized the great practical difficulties in the way of success. The *absence of an authority* qualified to lay down the law, and the *absence of agreement* amongst reformers have made progress almost impossible. This suggestion for a key alphabet to be used in dictionaries appears to me *the most practical and hopeful suggestion* that has yet been made. It follows the line of least resistance, and has *an immediate value* which will commend it to those who are indifferent or unfriendly to the wider use of the alphabet as a means of preparing the way for a rational method of phonetic spelling for the languages of civilization. The project has my heartiest sympathy.

DR. J. BALASSA, VII, KERTESZ-UTCZA 33 SZ., BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

The difference of the phonetic spellings used now in dictionaries, grammars and in phonetic works is a great scientific evil. Everybody who has to deal with phonetics or with learning or teaching foreign languages must read at least 4 or 5 phonetic spellings. And not only the value of the letters changes in the different systems, but the signs of stress, intonation, quantity, etc., are also quite different. For example the sign (:) in the phonetic spelling of the Maître Phonétique, denotes length, in that of Mr. Sweet and of the Finnisch-Ugrische Forschungen, stress; the sign of stress (') is used in the Maître Phonétique before the stressed syllable, in the phonetic spelling of the Toussaint-Langenscheidt Method and in that of other phoneticians after it, etc.

I think the conference has to settle two phonetic spellings: a rougher, for the use of dictionaries, grammars, etc., that is, for the educated people; and a finer for the use of phoneticians. *The value of every letter must be in both spellings the same*, but the finer spelling must have more modified letters and more signs to represent the minutest differences between the sounds of almost every literary language.

I think if the international conference of the most eminent phoneticians were held, they ought not to miss the opportunity to discuss at the same time the most important pending questions of phonetics and settle them so far as possible.

DR. THOMAS M. BALLIET, DEAN OF SCHOOL OF PEDACOOGY, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY.

I feel sure that you have blazed the way to success in this movement which will meet with least opposition.

JEAN S. BARES, EDITOR OF LE REFORMISTE, 18 RUE DU MAIL, PARIS, FRANCE.

(M. Barés spends \$10,000 a year in the promotion of a simplified orthography of French, the nature of which is illustrated in his letter.)

Il est impossible de former une langue universelle sans avoir créé, préalablement, un alfabet universel. La création de ce dernier serait relativement facile et ferait disparaître de bien grandes difficultés, aussi bien pour faire apprendre à chacun sa langue nationale, que pour lui enseigner les autres langues. L'idée de réunir une conférence internacionale, pour créer un alfabet uniforme sur la base de l'alfabet latin est excellente, mais je crois qu'elle ne pourrait être accomplie qu'en pluzieurs opérations successives. De mon côté, j'aiderai autant que possible.

DR. GEORGE F. BECKER, DIRECTOR GEOPHYSICAL LABORATORY, CARNEGIE INSTITUTION; GEOLOGIST IN CHARGE OF DIVISION OF CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL RESEARCHES, U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

To reform spelling by taking groups of words piecemeal and calling on the public to adopt change after change, is like shaving a man by pulling out his beard one hair at a

\* Comments not marked "Transl." were written in English.

time. The sensible way to proceed is to establish a rational system once for all, as uniform for the whole globe as possible; and then let it make its way into public use gradually. Evidently the dictionaries afford the easiest avenue.

PROF. F. A. BLACKBURN, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

It will be much easier to devise a satisfactory way of representing the sounds of a language than to secure its adoption for ordinary use. This can come about only by slow progress, but if phonetic writing once gets a foothold in the primary schools, its progress will be much more rapid, since the only objection, its unfamiliarity, will thus be removed.

In devising a new alphabet, special attention should be given to *script forms*. This is a matter that most alphabet makers do not sufficiently consider. It is very important to avoid complicated forms that require time to make with a pen. Children that have learned to read print have the further task of learning to read script, and our modern cursive writing makes this a severe task.

I am heartily in favor of such a conference as is proposed, but it should be made up of recognized experts in phonetics and the other questions involved. Too many zealous spelling reformers are entirely wanting in the training needed for *constructive work*, and though they can find arguments enough against the present system, they can contribute nothing of value to a new one. A conference of such would have no influence.

PRINCIPAL HUGH M. BLAIN, F. M. S., WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA.

The advantages of the proposed uniform system of letters are numerous, simply in connection with English, and apart from foreign languages. The systems employed by the various dictionaries are confusing. I own the Century, the Standard, and Webster's, and the fact that they all differ in some of their symbols causes loss of time and sometimes misunderstanding. The uniform system would be a decided improvement. Moreover, in teaching other languages, I find the different sets of symbols puzzling to both my pupils and myself. This annoyance and extra effort could be done away with under the proposed change. Finally, the enormous amount of time spent by children in learning to spell would be materially lessened, and hence saved, and *our language would be opened, as it has never been, to people of other nationalities.*

Clearly, the object can not be accomplished without a conference such as you suggest. Opinions and suggestions are necessary from scholars and practical men of all parts of the world; otherwise the result would be provincial and unsatisfactory.

The "Report of the Joint Committee"\*\* should convince every doubter of the wisdom of this move.

DR. BRANSCHIED, OBERLEHRER, SCHLEUSINGEN, THURINGEN, GERMANY.

It would suffice to start with a universal alphabet for English, German, French. Later on, the "key" may be amplified so as to include Russian, Spanish and Italian. A third and fourth amplification may comprise Dutch, Swedish, Danish and exotic leading languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese.

All masters that have to teach modern languages will heartily hail your success.

DR. OSKAR BRENNER, PROF. UNIVERSITY OF WURZBURG, GERMANY. (TRANSL.)

I agree in every point with J. Spieser;† as regards Question 8, I lack his experience. I consider the difficulties as formidable. For the dictionaries, the sound notation must not be too vague; for ordinary use it must necessarily be vague.

PROF. FRED. BULLOCK, TEACHER OF FRENCH, COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, STAFFORD, ENGLAND.

The broad foundation of the alphabet-to-be may be laid by correspondence, but the details would need to be orally discussed at a conference to be attended by representatives from all the nations who are to participate in the scheme. These representatives ought to be accredited by their respective governments, as Dr. Passy suggests, if the conference is to do anything more than merely draw up a *possible* alphabet. The work of the Commission will be of *great international importance*, and if the government of any one of the leading powers could be induced to give its sanction to the movement—pour encourager les autres—then there would be every chance of the idea being carried to some practical end.

\* See page 33.

† See pp. 24, 26.

FRAULEIN ELISABETH BURGER, VON STETTENSCHIES INSTITUT, AUGSBURG,  
GERMANY (TRANSL.).

Many years' experience in teaching various languages has forced on me the following convictions. The methods now used in dictionaries to indicate pronunciation are so confusing by their variety that one is tempted to warn pupils against placing confidence in statements which they find, for they are but too apt to be misled by them. An agreement by which these systems could be replaced by a single rational system, of the widest possible diffusion, ought to be joyfully welcomed. That a phonetic writing like that of the International Phonetic Association can be easily read with very little practice, I can confirm from my own experience. This or a similar system, perfected and developed in certain directions, ought to suffice for the purpose in view. Of course the pronunciation could in each case be indicated merely in rather rude outline, for the very idea of using the alphabet for different languages would prevent the indication of the finer shades. In point of fact, the notation of pronunciation can be an aid only to those who have been to some extent initiated—not a means to learn the pronunciation by themselves; in fact, the use of a dictionary always presupposes some knowledge of the language.

The hopes which are based on the idea of a universally accepted phonetic writing, as regards an improvement in the orthography of most languages, are well worth considering; but their realization will encounter many obstacles. The English orthography is the most senseless among all those known to me; the Italian by far the most rational. Experience teaches that we foreigners, who learn English mainly thru much reading, that is to say, thru the eye, have less trouble with the orthography than English school children, and hence, so long as the present English orthography is retained, the use of a phonetic representation would be to some extent an additional burden; we should indeed be more nearly in the position of English children, as regards the language, but I am not sure whether that would be an unqualified advantage.

If indeed the evil of the puzzling English orthography were removed, the case would be wholly different. But a radical change in the orthography of most languages encounters the greatest obstacle in the deep attachment which the most cultured people cherish for the most absurd orthography. They appeal to the etymologic interest: "Why, then we should lose all trace of the origin of a word!"—as if writing were a museum of antiquities, and as if etymologic studies could not be more easily and safely made without forcing the nine-tenths of the population who have no interest in etymology to carry the old rubbish about them day after day.

Whoever can contribute to enlighten the public on this point will do a truly meritorious work, especially for our young people, who are forced to squander such an outrageous amount of time and strength in order to learn something which everybody after all regards as preposterous and useless: the orthography of the most widespread living languages.

PROF. PERCY B. BURNET (GERMAN, FRENCH AND SPANISH), IOWA COLLEGE,  
GRINNELL, IOWA.

I hope, that whatever is done, no scheme of using a lot of little fine points or dots around or in the same letters may be used. Use rather twice as many signs, all simple.

DR. FRANKLIN CARTER, EX-PRESIDENT WILLIAMS COLLEGE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

I look upon this movement as a step toward the unification of enlightened nations, toward arbitration and peace.

HON. W. E. CHANDLER, EX-SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE, EX-SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, PRESIDENT SPANISH TREATY CLAIMS COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

I have for 50 years wished to do something towards the introduction of improved spelling, little by little—yet since the first enthusiasm of youth I have become discouraged. I began as a phonographer at 14 years of age and also studied phonetics and the spelling reform under Isaac Pitman, Stephen Pearl Andrews, and A. F. Boyle, and became a devotee. The importance to the human race of a phonetic spelling was so clear to me that I soon came to believe that in not many years an English phonetic alphabet would be adopted. My faith was vain, and little has been accomplished in a half century. I was sure spelling reform would come and had no hope that slavery in the United States would be abolished. The first has failed and the last has come. But it took a civil war to do it. We can not abolish senseless and vicious spelling by war. Doubtless we made a mistake in appealing to the public at

large. We had no idea of the inertia we were trying to overcome, and did not realize that only a small portion of mankind are public-spirited enough to persist in a reform which subjects them to constant inconvenience and annoyance without any immediate personal benefit.

The present movement avoids this. It seeks to unite, in one solid body, all those who now have to use a phonetic system in their customary work and who will therefore obtain an *immediate personal benefit* from a uniform system. When a universal key to pronunciation is adopted for the dictionaries the gradual spread of phonetic spelling will slowly but surely come to embrace all languages, not only in a few special books but in all the writing and printing of common life. When the key is adopted it will be of decided utility in learning the pronunciation of foreign languages; and as these now occupy everywhere a prominent part in higher education, phonetic spelling thus used under the requisite authority will become familiar to a large part of the public—the part which sets the fashion. Several systems of phonetic spelling exist which are readily legible with almost no study. Probably the proposed universal alphabet, thru the suggestions of the foremost students of the subject, can be made still easier of acquisition, so that those accustomed to the old spelling can readily read the new, while those who learn only the new can have free access to all the knowledge recorded in the old. Under these circumstances, the gradual spread of the phonetic spelling will be inevitable.

All that is needed is agreement on one system, and the obvious way to obtain it is a conference by those possessing the requisite authority. This is largely a question of money, for the men with the requisite authority exist and are ready to meet. A philanthropist who will furnish the funds for the purpose, thus supplying the essential condition for a reform which will sweep away all factitious barriers between languages, hasten the advancement of English to the position of *the world language*, and practically banish illiteracy from the world by abolishing nine-tenths of the labor involved in the acquisition of reading—will erect to himself an enduring monument.

PROF. GEORGE DAVIS CHASE (LATIN AND GREEK), WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDDLE-TOWN, CONN.

I believe that this is distinctly a movement in the right direction. All discussion of so pertinent a question is fruitful. The practical difficulties would be the length of the alphabet required, varying degrees of precision required for different purposes, and the difficulty of agreeing on many points. Still, many of the difficulties could be surmounted, if not all. It seems to me that we have reached that degree of accuracy in phonetic studies when we are ready to undertake the making of an international alphabet.

PROF. CLARENCE G. CHILD (ENGLISH), UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The idea of having only one script seems to me admirable from the strictly scientific and economic standpoint. I shall be glad to help at any time in any way I can.

CONSUL CHRISTIAN CLOOS, FREDERIKSHAVN, DENMARK.

My ideal is a physiological alphabet, a "visible speech," but founded on better calligraphic and stenographic principles than the system of Bell-Sweet. If the universal phonetic spelling has to be based on the well-known Roman letters, I consider that the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association actually solves the problem. It might perhaps be improved by a few modifications; but the less it is changed the better, considering the extensive use which is already made of it.

As a rule, every educated person whose native language is English or French is now wasting a couple of years of his life in loading his memory with worthless orthographic details.

PROF. ROBERT CRAIG (MODERN LANGUAGES), LOCKERS PARK, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, ENGLAND.

Your proposed conference has my full approval. I do not think people realize in the least what a waste of time results from our present cumbrous form of spelling, much of which is quite valueless from an *educational* point of view. It is quite time that spelling were put on a logical basis.

W. V. DECHEND, LECTURER ON GERMAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

Although I am afraid that this reply will arrive *post factum*, owing to the great distance, I desire to express my sincere wish that the proposed conference may meet

in the near future and achieve the objects set forth in your circular. The alphabet of the "association fonetik" is based on such rational principles, and its practical value has been so well tested, that it might be urged that there is no need for a lengthy discussion of a new one. I expect, however, that a meeting of experts would arrive at an improved form of the same alphabet without introducing any radical changes, and would do for this new alphabet what the Association has been unable to attain, viz, give it such *authority* that it would soon be used universally wherever a phonetic transcription is required. This would be a great gain, and personally I am convinced that it would form a great step toward a rational spelling reform. But perhaps it would be wise to say nothing on this point and merely sow the seed and leave it to time to let it grow up, since we all know what prejudice exists among the great mass of the educated with regard to the sacred inviolability of the traditional spelling.

I promise to do my best to secure the speedy introduction of an alphabet drawn up by a representative majority of experts.

**MELVIL DEWEY, DIRECTOR DEPT. OF STATE LIBRARY AND HOME EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; SECRETARY SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION; STATE LIBRARY, ALBANY, N. Y.**

Your work is one of the best contributions to this great cause. I thank you for it, congratulate you on it, and urge you to follow it persistently to a successful issue. We can agree by correspondence on a large portion of the alphabet and get a clear statement of points of difference, so we can utilize our time to best advantage. There is no question of the immense value of an international key alphabet. Possibly we shall find that the variations to cover the foreign sounds not represented in English may make it necessary to have a few letters with different powers. I sincerely hope not; but certainly we can agree on nine-tenths of the alphabet and that will be well worth the effort.

**AUGUST DIEDERICHS, DIREKTOR A. D., BONN, GERMANY (TRANSL.).**

Correspondence in the ordinary sense would be too cumbersome and dilatory. The existing journals would hardly present an appropriate vehicle. My suggestion, therefore, would be to establish a periodical specially for the purpose. Having by this means prepared the way thoroughly, a conference, composed exclusively of unbiased experts, would offer a convenient means to arrive at agreement, and to secure the general approval, acceptance and spread of the alphabet, which might otherwise remain in uncertainty.

**PROF. HOWARD F. DOANE (LATIN), COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK.**

I think this scheme is, in contrast with that of reformed spelling, a feasible one, and may be entered upon almost at once. Moreover, it will be *at once profitable* for certain purposes. The probability of its being gradually extended into general use need not affect the *cordial co-operation of all*, as *no harm will have been done* and much benefit will be derived.

I can see ever so slight a chance that this scheme may make its way into general use, though I have never for a moment dreamed that any other scheme would be successful.

**PROF. CLARENCE WILLIS EASTMAN (GERMAN), UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, IOWA CITY, IOWA.**

My interests lie along the line of linguistics, and I shall be glad to give my enthusiastic support to any attempt to substitute something for our medieval system of orthography. It seems to me that the hopes expressed in the circular, that the use of such an alphabet in the schools may tend to produce some amelioration in our spelling are well grounded.

**PROF. A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT (ROMANCE LANGUAGES), JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE, MD.**

I am heartily in favor of such a conference. For twenty years I have worked almost constantly in phonetics, and the necessity of some general system has forced itself more and more upon me.

**PROF. ROBERT H. FIFE (GERMAN), WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDDLETOWN, CONN.**

It would bring *unity* into an agitation that is now sadly disorganized.

**G. FORCHHAMMER, DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION, NYBORG,  
DENMARK.**

This Institution for many years has based all instruction on phonetic assistance, to wit: (1) a phonetic spelling, that shows both the orthography and the pronunciation, and (2) a system of hand and finger positions, that show the invisible positions of the speech organs, so that the observation of hand and lips together (the hand lifted toward the face) gives to the deaf a picture of the whole speech perfectly visible.

These phonetic devices have turned out so valuable for instruction that no master who has made himself familiar with them would think of leaving them again.

Considering these experiences a testimony of the general pedagogical importance of the phonetic method, I welcome every effort that points in phonetic direction and think it very practical to begin with the same alphabet in all the dictionaries.

**ALFRED GIARD, MEMBRE DE L'INSTITUT DE FRANCE, PROF. A LA SORBONNE, PARIS,  
FRANCE (TRANSL.).**

I think it possible and highly desirable to have a convention to establish a universal alphabet and an international phonetic system. *Such a system would singularly facilitate the expansion of languages which are already widespread. It would constitute a first and indispensable stage in the development of a language tending toward universality.*

**PROF. PAUL H. GRUMMANN (GERMANIC LANGUAGES), UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA;  
ASSOC. EDITOR JOURNAL OF ENGLISH AND GERMANIC PHILOLOGY.**

Some of the difficulties in the way of an alphabet of this kind are disappearing. The German commission, under Prof. Siebs, is fixing a standard German pronunciation, and the next logical step of course is a phonetic alphabet. While there are fewer dialectic variations in English, some commission will be necessary to determine what is to be regarded as *standard English* before a phonetic alphabet can be introduced generally.

**PROF. HENSCHEL, LUBBENERSTRASSE 22 II, BERLIN S. O. 33, GERMANY (TRANSL.).**

I joyfully hail the proposed conference, on account of the associated practical purposes. The greatest difficulty will of course be found in solving question 1; but I hope that this may be accomplished. That oral discussion is preferable to mere correspondence is to me self-evident.

**MR. ALBERT HERBERT, PRESIDENT HUB GORE MAKERS, 89 BEACON ST., BOSTON, MASS.**

As a traveler in America, North and South, Russia, India, China, Australia, Europe and Japan, I have constantly been impressed with the need of a universal alphabet. Japan, I hear, is on the eve of adopting a phonetic alphabet of Roman letters. Your work will undoubtedly benefit all mankind.

**ANDREW INGRAHAM, 4 BRYANT ST., CAMBRIDGE, MASS.**

There is a grandeur and dignity in the present suggestion which will appeal to many minds that are merely amused by what they have heard of spelling reform.

**PROF. J. B. E. JONAS (GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES), BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE, R. I.**

This International Phonetic Alphabet is bound to come, and be practically universally adopted in time. The date of its advent must depend largely upon the wisdom, the scientific accuracy, and the ability to agree on one uniform satisfactory alphabet, of those now giving their energy and interest to the question. It is not at all necessary that the first adopted be perfect, though it should be as nearly so as possible, but it is absolutely essential that it be uniformly adopted and become international.

**D. J. KENNELLY, K. C., LOUISBURG, C. B., NOVA SCOTIA.**

I have long been of opinion that a phonetic system of spelling, not only of English but of all known languages, should be adopted. The waste of time of the pupil of to-day, learning the English language, is deplorable; and on this ground alone, apart from all other benefits, I most heartily support the movement.

**PROF. FREDERICK KETTLE, CLAPHAM BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL, CLAPHAM, S. W., LONDON,  
ENGLAND.**

The most important matter to settle seems to me to be the fixing of *script* characters, so that the most advanced pupils can use it in their correspondence. Had

more attention been given to *writing*, the phonetic reform would have gone forward much more rapidly. Now that French and German are being taught phonetically, that is, not only is the pupil expected to imitate the teacher's voice, but also to recognize the symbol for each sound, there should be no difficulty in pushing ahead with the reform, so soon as the written symbol for each sound has been determined. When a pupil can write the symbols correctly, it will be an excellent ear discipline for him to translate into script-form the traditionally spelled and printed words. Everything is ready for the "*written*" characters; until they are determined, progress must be inconceivably slow, as a teacher can not in his lessons waste time in "printing" sentences on the blackboard.

PROF. HERBERT Z. KIP (GERMAN), VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TENN.

For years I have been interested in a reform of our orthography and believe it to be entirely practicable. I have seen two or three specimens of phonetic alphabets and have found that *fifteen minutes' study* will enable one to read in them as easily as in the spelling to which he has always been accustomed. If all our newspapers and current literature could be printed phonetically for *one week*, I believe our people would never think of returning to our present system. So near are we to this much-needed reform! We should not be dismayed by the difficulty of representing with absolute accuracy every sound in the continental and English languages. Absolute perfection is perhaps not attainable, but a vast improvement is within easy reach.

DR. H. LOGEMAN, PROF. UNIVERSITY OF GHENT, BELGIUM.

I strongly recommend the preparation by the Congress of *two alphabets*, mainly on the same lines, one more detailed for dictionary purposes (and other scientific works), and one somewhat broader, somewhat vaguer, for the purpose of the "general reader"—and I am afraid we shall have to count with a new type: the "Universal Reader."

By all means retain the traditional spelling for the sake of obviating clamorous objections. A question of tactics. It will disappear of itself in time.

If it is thought possible to assemble those "foremost authorities" not only once but several times, *then the sooner they meet, the better*. But if, as I am afraid will prove to be the case, the conference can meet but once, then the longer they wait and the more they prepare beforehand by correspondence, the better. The whole seems to me to be, alas, a question of *L. s. d.* If we really wish to reach the desired goal, a *Universal alphabet*, *i. e.*, one which is not only recommended by Mr. A or Dr. B or Prof. C, but which will *have to be* adopted in future editions of all the leading works, dictionaries and manuals and all—then the moral weight of the decisions of the delegates from *all* countries will have to be so great as to carry all objections before it. And this can only be done by delegates with a proper mandate from recognized scientific bodies *from all countries*. And who will pay the Americans and Australians to come to Europe or *vice versa*, and even a Norwegian to come to Paris, or an Italian to go to Berlin? The "foremost authorities" are, as a rule, not those that can afford the expenses necessitated by one or several such trips. Let us therefore *prepare* as much as possible beforehand, and let us collect money. And let us also prepare something else, *viz.*, the minds of the delegates (and of the delegating bodies), for one thing, to wit: that they will have to come to the conference armed with an extraordinary amount of "peace and good will." **If everybody comes there with a set of preconceived, I will not say notions, but of prearranged results, of which not one iota may be changed, we may as well stay at home.** The delegating bodies will have to leave their delegates much latitude, and yet the results will have to be *binding*.

May I append a note or two outside the specific program traced by your questions?

I would then first warn you against an advice of my excellent friend, Paul Passy. Let us think twice before we try to "induce any government to take the initiative in the movement." For the question may well be asked if in this republic of letters (I hasten to add: *read republic of sounds*) we must not stand on our own feet, and if we can "suffer interference" from other governments. Seriously: Must it not be apprehended that, in giving the thing out of our hands into those of any government, we introduce that most baleful element: politics? Would it not be much better to choose our own representatives, delegates, than to have each government appoint a man who may not have the (scientific) confidence of those whom he is supposed to represent?

To conclude, then, I would urge upon the committee now preparing this most needed conference—

(1) that two alphabets should be proposed to the conference;

(2) that such conference should not yet take place (unless funds will allow, of course), but be prepared beforehand by means of such "questionaries" as have already been used;

(3) that delegates be appointed—or elected—who will meet, some time hence, at some place to be determined by international vote;

(4) that their traveling expenses be paid fully or in part;

(5) that the delegating bodies should recognize beforehand the binding character of the resolutions arrived at by the congress;

(6) that the conference, altho it will not refuse to take into consideration any linguistic fact that may be brought to its knowledge, will yet be inspired only by a wish to adapt the alphabets to be proposed to the linguistic conditions of the modern Indo-Germanic languages.

**PROF. DAVID LOPEZ (FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE), CURSO SUPERIOR DE LETRAS, LISBON, PORTUGAL (TRANSL.).**

I am entirely in agreement with the promoters of the conference. A meeting is necessary, in order that specialists may discuss at length the conditions of the international alphabet.

**ARCH. MCGOUN, K. C., IMPERIAL BUILDING, 107 ST. JAMES ST., MONTREAL, CANADA.**

I am quite convinced that the general adoption of a phonetic alphabet is the most important step toward a reform in educational work, which will not only save the time of teachers and children but will afford the only possible means of spreading the influence of well-educated speakers among the masses of the people, and so improve both speech and manners of all classes. It is of the first importance also that the work be done by the most competent scholars, since the whole advantage lies in a scheme being adopted which will not have to be altered for many years.

**PROF. BRANDER MATTHEWS (DRAMATIC LITERATURE), COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK.**

The more agitation there is, the more likely are we to go forward; and I for one welcome any movement which will tend to focus public opinion on the subject.

**PROF. JOHN E. MATZKE (ROMANIC LANGUAGES), STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA.**

A universal phonetic alphabet would be a highly desirable thing from the pedagogical point of view, and I am radical enough to believe that the form of the alphabet itself is of small importance when compared with the principle itself, *i. e.*, unification of effort and method.

**PROF. C. L. MEADER (LATIN, SANSKRIT AND COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY), UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MICH.**

I am heartily in favor of all efforts, especially concerted efforts, to advance the cause of the international phonetic alphabet. It seems to me eminently desirable that there should be a *comparatively small* commission made up of say one, or in some cases perhaps two, eminent phoneticians, a lexicographer, an editor and type engraver from each of the leading nations. If such a commission should devise an adequate phonetic alphabet, and the dictionary makers, primary school systems, and *newspapers* can be thoroughly and permanently interested, there seems to me a reasonable prospect of success within a generation or so.

**PROF. EUGENE MONSEUR (SANSKRIT AND COMPARATIVE PHILOLOGY), UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (TRANSL.).**

I endorse your project with all my heart. For a number of reasons, I should be disposed to insist that the international alphabet ought to be distinguished by its style from other alphabets, so that it may be recognized at first glance, and, in particular, that it ought to consist of well designed characters, which might be cited as models, like the Elzevir and other beautiful types. The distinctive character would be secured by the use of upright italics.

I have set forth my views on the matter in an article on "The Alphabet of the Year 2000," in which I demonstrate the utility of an international alphabet.

**JOHN M. MOTT, R. F. D., ROUTE NO. 2, SOUTH HAVEN, MICH.; AUTHOR OF MOTT'S FONOLOJI AND FONOTAIP.**

When the rising generation has become familiar with the phonetic spelling, there will be no more need of learning the current spelling than there is now of learning the current spelling of the 16th century.

Correspondence alone would result in failure to accomplish the purpose intended. There should be an international conference.

In 1900 I had at Paris, as an exhibit, a Phonetic English alphabet by which I illustrated phonetic spelling in the following languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish.

**M. JACQUES NOVICOW, EX-VICE-PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY, 8 RUE DE LA POSTE, ODESSA (TRANSL.).**

My congratulations on the subject of the international alphabet. That is a work of first class utility. I have long been thinking about it. What Passy says is admirably true. May you succeed in carrying the work to a successful issue.

**PROF. THOMAS E. OLIVER, PH. D. (ROMANIC LANGUAGES), UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA, ILL.**

From the standpoint of a modern language teacher I am convinced that a universal phonetic system would save an immense amount of time in our teaching, besides making our results *more permanent*. How difficult French pronunciation is to retain by students who have only class-room contact in our colleges and schools, is evident. Even superior students forget in October what they knew and practised well in June. I believe that the presence of an identical key for all languages of first rank would largely eliminate this difficulty. This summer I visited the classes of Prof. Walter in the Frankfurt a.M. Musterschule,\* and saw his method based on phonetic charts in use with students of various ages. It was uniformly successful. The pupils retained a correct accent with far greater ease than when the historic spelling is alone used. If this method was successful in French, it was almost as successful in Prof. Walter's English classes, altho there the divergence of English spelling from the pronunciation made success more difficult.

The greatest difficulty in adopting a phonetic key would probably be in those lands whose spelling would be most changed by its adoption, namely, the English-speaking lands. It is therefore fitting that we take the lead in this important matter.

**DR. PAUL PASSY, DIRECTEUR ADJOINT A L'ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES, PARIS; SECRETARY INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ASSOCIATION.**

You ask what attitude, in my opinion, the International Phonetic Association would be likely to take on the subject of an international phonetic congress. I will try to describe the situation as it appears to me.

To try to reform the spelling before you have agreed on an alphabet is to navigate the ocean without knowing for which port you are to steer. In reality you cannot reform a single word except by making it conform to some alphabet more or less distinctly present to your mind. Of course, so long as no universally accepted alphabet exists, even random efforts at reform are better than nothing; but one cannot help groaning to think of the thousands of reformers working at cross purposes all over the earth, and thus accomplishing almost nothing, when a small fraction of their labor and expenditure would secure the desired agreement on a universal alphabet, which would promptly become public property and thus accomplish the reform with the ease and certainty of a force of nature.

The alphabet of the International Phonetic Association, though primarily designed as an aid to the teaching of the exact pronunciation of foreign languages, bids fair to become the most potent instrument for the spelling reform. It can fairly claim to be more widely accepted than any other, being already in use in many publications, including several dictionaries.

Were every dictionary to adopt this alphabet as a key to pronunciation, the problem of the spelling reform would be solved. Every dictionary user would thereafter be familiar with two spellings of each word; the traditional and the phonetic. The latter, by reason of its extreme simplicity, would soon be taught in every school, at first merely as a means to teach correct pronunciation. In deference to public prejudice, teachers would doubtless continue for some time to force children to memorize also the countless caprices of the old spelling. In a few years, however, having had constant occasion to compare the simplicity of the new system with the intricacy of the old, teachers would find this waste of time, this burdening of the memory with a huge load of useless and absurd rules, simply unendurable. Children would cease to be taught to *write* the old system, being merely expected to *read* it. Meantime the older generation would continue to *write* in the old fashion, but would have no trouble to *read* the new spelling, since it would depart from present usage as little as possible. Thousands of intelligent adults, having without effort learned the new system by reading, would use it also in writing. Thus when a universal key to pronunciation has once been adopted by all dictionaries, the public will need no further persuasion; it will absorb the new system by capillary attraction through every pore.

\* See p. 11.

Let it not be imagined that the International Phonetic Association has any desire to force its alphabet on the public at large. The Association is strictly what its name implies: an association of students of phonetics. As such it needed a common system of representing speech sounds, and in the preparation of this all possible care was exercised. However, in devising an alphabet for use by the public at large, other interests will have to be consulted—those of dictionary-makers, educators, designers of type and of systems of penmanship.

The preparation of an alphabet to be used by future generations for ages to come, with as little change as possible, will of course demand the greatest care. It should be confided to a commission composed of the ablest men in the different branches concerned, and these should devote to it all the time that may be required.

Evidently such a commission must be international. If all dictionaries are to use the same key to pronunciation, there must be an agreement among the makers of them in the different countries. If there is to be no further change in the spelling, it would be foolish to run the risk of setting up different systems now. The problem of reform is practically the same in all countries; the letters are the same and for the most part represent the same sounds. An identical system of writing would be of the greatest service in learning foreign languages, and in this way become a potent aid in familiarizing the public with the new spelling. An international phonetic system is also a necessary step in the choice of an international language; for, whatever that language may be, it will have to be written phonetically and in a way to command itself as much as possible to speakers of all languages.

A commission composed of eminent men of different nations to draw up a universal alphabet would require, of course, considerable expense. It is not to be expected that the necessary sum can be obtained from public funds. Parliaments are too busy with other matters. There is little doubt, however, that governments will be willing to lend their prestige and authority to such a commission, if the funds are secured from private sources.

If the International Phonetic Association were assured that there is a reasonable prospect of securing the requisite funds, I feel safe in saying that it would be glad to use its influence and that of its friends to induce the French government to take the initiative in the movement.

PROF. AUGUSTE RENARD, AGREGE DE L'UNIVERSITE, CAEN, FRANCE (TRANSL.).

I hasten to give my adhesion to the idea of an international phonetic conference. Your work deserves full success, and you may count on my active assistance.

PROF. S. A. RICHARDS, S. A., B. A., LECTURER IN FRENCH, NORTHERN POLYTECHNIC, LONDON N., ENGLAND.

The alphabet of the Association Phonétique Internationale is to-day being used in many schools in this country as well as on the continent with most beneficial results in the acquisition of a correct pronunciation in French and German. Could it not form the basis of the international alphabet now proposed?

One frequently meets with the objection—on the part of those unacquainted with phonetics—that phonetic spelling would obscure the derivation of words. The falsity of this statement is of course apparent to philologists, but it is worth while to explain why it is a mistaken view to those who do not realize that philology is based upon phonetic laws and does not depend upon the particular graphic representation adopted, except that, indeed, the nearer this approaches the actual pronunciation, the better from the philologist's point of view.

PROF. GEORGE W. SAUNDERSON, PRINCIPAL SAUNDERSON SCHOOL OF EXPRESSION, HOLYOKE BLOCK, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

I am entirely in sympathy with the idea of a phonetic conference. My own work has for years been chiefly in the department of English and Oratory, and my efforts to teach the accurate pronunciation of English have been such that I am not unaware of some at least of the difficulties that must be met and overcome by such a conference. I am confident that they are of such a nature that they must be discussed orally and can not be settled by mere correspondence; but I have given some special attention to phonetics and I believe that a conference of the best students of the subject of the world can arrange an alphabet that will approximately stand for all the sounds of the languages of civilized peoples of the earth. Such an alphabet, when made, will be of great use to all advanced teachers and students *from the start*, but it will take a generation to get it before the people in all the dictionaries and still longer for it to supersede our present alphabet and mode of spelling. *But we do not need to consider that very much yet.* There is a positive good to be gained *immediately*, and

that is worth working for. What further may be accomplished later we can well afford to wait for, and if we find later that it may be attainable, we can work for that too. First let the universal alphabet be made and proved practicable for students. Then, in the end, it will gain its way just so far as it is thoroughly useful, though the natural conservatism of the people will make its progress among them very slow at the beginning.

DR. CHARLES P. G. SCOTT, ETYMOLOGICAL EDITOR CENTURY DICTIONARY, CENTURY COMPANY, UNION SQUARE, NEW YORK.

The question is not, Shall a phonetic notation of English be used in dictionaries and spelling-books and taught in schools? Every dictionary and spelling-book now uses a phonetic notation of some sort, and this phonetic notation is taught in the schools. It is never learned; but it is taught. It is approved by no scholar, but it is enforced upon pupils. Those who use it, use and favor a phonetic notation; but they use and favor a bad and ineffective phonetic notation.

Since teachers must teach a phonetic alphabet, why should they not teach a uniform, scientific phonetic alphabet, which shall be worth learning and worth remembering? Every great modern language should have for every word, besides its conventional spelling, an international, universal, phonetic spelling, representing the actual pronunciation of the present day, and intelligible the world over. Such a parallel phonetic spelling now to a great extent exists throughout Europe. It is applied with increasing uniformity in dictionaries and grammars having a scientific basis. The philologic battle has been won already. There is not a scholar, versed in general philology, who does not use, in one way or another, the general phonetic notation which I have described. It needs only to be unified, simplified, and diffused.

An international conference, therefore, would meet under encouraging circumstances. There are no obstacles, only difficulties. *It is all a matter of money.* There are scholars enough to do the work, but they can not go to a distant place on a purely scientific and philanthropic errand, at their own expense.

PROF. MARY AUGUSTA SCOTT (ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE), SMITH COLLEGE, NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

A phonetic notation of some kind we must have. As a matter of fact we have too many of them. Nothing could be more practical than for a body of scholars to meet and evolve out of experience and exchange of ideas some one system that may be on the whole the best.

PROF. FRANK K. SECHRIST (ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE), STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, STEVENS POINT, WIS.

The clearness and order of your questions, to my mind, argue the matter convincingly. I believe there will be a general agreement among the great body of public school teachers in this part of the West to all your propositions. Especially will this be so if the movement will have the appearance of being widely representative, not seeming the fad of a coterie of reformers or specialists. There are not many more important movements in the world's history to-day.

PROF. ROBERT SHARP (ENGLISH), TULANE UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA.

I have long desired that something might be done in this direction. I am in hearty sympathy with the plan herein proposed, and I consider it thoroughly practicable.

PROF. DANIEL B. SHUMWAY, GERMAN, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

I was much pleased at the practical and simple character of the system proposed by the recent report of the Committee on the question of a phonetic English alphabet.\* A change in English spelling is so necessary that it is bound to come in time. It seems to me that the introduction of a phonetic guide system in dictionaries and manuals would be an excellent opening wedge and would gradually lead to its introduction first as a guide in spelling books and would then finally replace the traditional spelling entirely. Those who read older English have no difficulty in recognizing the words in their older garb, and the same would be true of modern spelling reform.

\* See p. 34.

PROF. OTTO SIEPMANN, HEAD OF MOD. LANGUAGE DEPT., CLIFTON COLLEGE, CLIFTON-  
BRISTOL, ENGLAND.

Though the difficulties that are to be overcome by this interesting proposal are no doubt numerous, I dare say that you will succeed, provided that you are determined to win or die, for you are fighting in a good cause. I have much sympathy with your endeavors and wish you every success, for the thraldom of the ordinary spelling is unbearable and a wicked torture of innocent children, especially when they begin to learn to read.

ELNA SIMONSEN, 58 NORREBROGADE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (TRANSL.).

It is impossible to agree on a universal alphabet by correspondence. The preliminaries may thus be arranged; afterward a conference will be a necessity. For Danish, the most competent man is Prof. Jespersen. I think that the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association, with a few modifications, might very well serve the purpose. The conference ought to be held in Paris, to facilitate the meeting of as many experts as possible.

J. SPIESER, PFARRER ZU WALDHAMBACH, ELSASS, GERMANY (TRANSL.).

Your enterprise is to me of exceeding importance, and I shall gladly co-operate. The conference will produce a good result only if it is thoroly prepared by extensive discussion thru correspondence. I would therefore warn you against being in a hurry. The best basis for discussion is probably the alphabet of the Maitre Phonétique.

In the April number of that journal, page 65, Prof. Monseur writes: "Our alphabet ought to consist of upright italics, so that the printed text may be a veritable model of calligraphy. I find it absurd to print a word in one way, and then, in copying it with the pen, to give another form to each letter." I expressed the same view in the same number, page 72. I am now in a position to present the "Fibelschrift" (primer type) there mentioned, prepared by the type foundry of Bauer & Son, of Frankfurt am Main.

a ä b c c d e f g h i j k l m n n y o ö p q r  
s f s t u ü v w x y 3

This print is turned into script by simply connecting the letters. The omission of connecting strokes is just as natural for print as the use of them is for script.

I think the International Phonetic Association made a mistake in the very beginning in basing its alphabet on the roman, not on the italic type.

You may be interested in learning that, by the consent of the school authorities, I have used the above-mentioned "Fibelschrift" in teaching a class of beginners numbering 31 children. The experiment began on April 25, 1904, and on September 2 the class was examined. A detailed account of the experiment is given in "Der Hauslehrer" (Berlin-Groslichterfelde, Holbeinstr. 25). Suffice it to say that nearly half of the children were able at the end of the period to read anything in "Fibelschrift."

JAS. HEAD STAPLES, ESQ., LISSAN, CO. TYRONE, IRELAND.

I think the matter is of great importance for civilization. It is a disgrace at this time of day that there is not a well-known system of noting simple speech sounds on paper, when we have had for about 2,000 years in the western world a system of writing which theoretically aims at representing the speech sounds of language and not ideographs.

PROF. DR. MORITZ TRAUTMANN, BONN, GERMANY (TRANSL.).

The preparation of a universal alphabet, if successful, will be no easy task. Oral discussion is necessary; but not less necessary is a thorough previous discussion in writing. Suggestions should be sent in print to all who are willing to co-operate, with request for opinions. Their answers, again, should be printed and distributed. The foremost requisite, namely, a general discussion of everything relating to the question, might be best attained by a periodical. It would be no misfortune if the written discussion lasted some years. Only after it has been completed can anything be expected to result from oral treatment.

E. O. VAIL, EDITOR THE INTELLIGENCE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL ERA, OAK PARK, ILL.

I am very glad, indeed, to see the extent of the approval which is given to the proposal for an international conference of experts to agree upon an international alphabet. It is a consummation devoutly to be wished and points the way to inevitable phonetic spelling.

DR. WILHELM VIETOR, PROF. ENGLISH PHILOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MARBURG; EDITOR DIE NEUEREN SPRACHEN; PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ASSOCIATION; MARBURG, GERMANY (TRANSL.).

You have no doubt inferred that I am glad to give the desired endorsement and to take part in an international conference, in case I should be invited and be able to do so, and, in fact, to work for the plan to the best of my power.

PROF. RAYMOND WEEKS (ROMANCE LANGUAGES), DIRECTOR LABORATORY OF PHONETICS, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA, MO.

You are back of a splendid movement. I am with you heart and soul. Do not let anything discourage you in a simple, dignified appeal to the scholars of the world. The movement is of the vastest importance to humanity.

DR. AUG. WESTERN, FREDRIKSSTAD, NORWAY.

If universal use is aimed at (instead of the current "orthographies"), the alphabet would have to be so simple that its worth as a real sound-notation would be greatly impaired. I think, therefore, that it would be better to try and agree upon *two* international alphabets, one for real sound-notation, and another, broader and simpler, for ordinary use.

REV. J. B. WESTON, PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN BIBLICAL INSTITUTE, STANFORDVILLE, N. Y.

It seems to me that this is a move in the right direction and ought to command the favor of all lovers of learning. In the present and increasing intercommunication between persons of various nations, a uniform representation of the sounds used in the various languages would be very helpful. In the pronunciation of words as given in various dictionaries a uniform mode of representing sounds would be a great desideratum. If the authorities agree on pronunciation, they should agree in the manner of expressing it; if they disagree, so much the more should there be a uniform method whereby the disagreements should be intelligible to all. And when a uniform phonetic spelling is agreed upon, it should be deemed to be, and I think it would grow to be, good form for a writer to choose this method. Thus by *easy and not revolutionary degrees* the phonetic method would become the accepted method.

HENRY WISE, BACNOTAN, UNION, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

I have been teaching the English language for twenty years to pupils of many ages, nations, and races, and if there is anyone who realizes the hardships and difficulties which our present orthography imposes on teacher and pupil, it is I.

DR. FRANK A. WOLFF, PHYSICIST, U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

I am heartily in favor of an international phonetic conference. I believe much good would result therefrom, particularly if the members were provided with advance copies of the recommendations to be presented, at least a month before the conference is held.

There is urgent need of such work in many other directions on which I feel more competent to express myself, for example, the establishment of an international system of weights and measures, the redefinition of the electrical units, for which an international commission is about to be appointed, the adoption of a uniform system of notation for physical quantities, the absence of which now makes it necessary to waste much valuable time in comparing the results of one author with those of another, even when the articles appear in the same journal.

As all these matters are international in scope, no agreement can be reached except by international action to definitely settle the questions concerned; for the universal adoption will be best ensured by the weight of international agreement.

MR. HERBERT S. WOOD, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR, FORMERLY EDITOR,  
BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The "gradual" reform of English spelling, involving, as it does, frequently recurring violence to habits and traditions, is unpromising, for the simple reason that few men are willing to make a constant effort without immediate personal benefit; while the adoption of a uniform key to pronunciation for dictionaries would involve no inconvenience to anyone, and would serve a number of valuable ends quite apart from its influence on spelling reform.

Ethnologists, especially, feel the need of a phonetic alphabet with the principal elements of which all dictionary users would be familiar. At present each nation, and often each writer, records vocabularies and texts by different characters, and if, as frequently happens, a key is not given, the value of these characters must be guessed; while much of the ethnologist's linguistic work is ignored by the public because it is not familiar with his alphabet and is unwilling to spend time and trouble to acquire it.

Your efforts will be well repaid if they serve no other purpose than to further the work of the International Phonetic Association, whose alphabet, already in use, is worthy of serious attention by all students of phonetics.

#### FOUR DETAILED REPLIES.

Space will not allow more than four out of the many interesting replies to the questions in the preliminary circular to be reproduced: those of Prof. F. Gustafsson, of the University of Helsingfors, Finland (the only reply written in Latin); Mr. J. Spieser, Waldhambach, Elsass, Germany; Dr. C. P. G. Scott, etymological editor Century Dictionary, Century Co., New York; Prof. F. Black, Odense, Denmark.

1. Is it possible to devise a universal alphabet to be used as a key to pronunciation in all dictionaries of the leading languages?

Gustafsson: *Facile poterit in lexicis ad quotidianum usum comparatis eadem et phonetica litterarum ratio constitui.*

Spieser (transl.). Yes.

Scott. It is a scientific apparatus that is required, and it is not at all difficult to devise one. Several are ready for use. To get people to use one is difficult.

Black. I feel convinced that it will be possible to devise such an alphabet—indeed, we have one already, in the M. F. (*Maitre Phonétique*).

2. If so, is it desirable that such key be adopted by the dictionaries?

G. *Haec igitur res strenue agenda.*

Sp. Yes.

Sc. Dictionaries are published to sell. When a widely accepted key to pronunciation exists, the publishers will have the strongest motive for introducing it into the dictionaries.

B. Such a key alphabet would be of the greatest value to dictionaries. Our (Danish) Encyclopedia Salomonsen has a specially appointed phonetist to give all proper names in phonetic writing (M. F.'s system).

3. Is it possible to give to this key such form as to render it most convenient also for ordinary writing and printing, thus establishing a universally recognized phonetic spelling, which any reader may readily copy?

G. *Universalis clavi phonetica et possumus uti.*

Sp. Yes; but it would have to be done with great caution and expert knowledge.

Sc. Yes. Such keys, much more difficult and complex than they need be, are in wide use now in school rooms and in philological works, and printers and type-founders meet the requirements. They will do anything that pays.

B. (3 and 4). I think M. F.'s printed signs are very convenient for ordinary writing, which fact I consider a great advantage. The dictionary key alphabet should have that advantage, too, of course.

4. If so, is it desirable that such form be given to this key?

G. *et debemus,*

Sp. Yes.

Sc. The "universal alphabet" must be of several degrees of size and accuracy.

5. Would a universal key alphabet be an aid to learning the pronunciation of foreign languages?

G. *eiisque ope multo facilius et nostram linguam puram et alias discemus,*

Sp. Most certainly.

Sc. It would remove the greatest obstacle to the learning of foreign languages.

B. Most certainly. As the actual systems in primers, etc., are. I learned Spanish and Dutch pronunciation from Araujo's and Roorda's books and from specimens in the M. F., and when I employed teachers they found

scarcely anything to correct. A couple of years ago I examined a candidate who had never been taught French orally, but had an excellent pronunciation. He had studied Nyrop's Primer of French Sounds (Fransk Lydlore).

6. If so, would that fact contribute to render this key alphabet (and, therefore, the phonetic spelling) more familiar to a large portion of the educated public?

G. *ita tamen ut singulis in linguis simplici utamur clavi, ad universalem scitissime accommodata.*

Sp. Certainly.

Sc. Yes. And it would make the phonetic idea more palatable to the literary public. It is fashionable to learn a little French and German; it is still unfashionable to countenance the phonetic idea as to English.

B. Such a dictionary alphabet would certainly contribute to spread knowledge concerning speech sounds and thereby knowledge of language in general.

7. The universal alphabet having once been adopted as a key to pronunciation in all dictionaries, is it probable that it will also be adopted for that purpose in all language manuals, primers and readers?

G. *Inde haec res latius extendetur ad omnes libros didacticos.*

Sp. Probably, in time.

Sc. Probable, and in the long run certain.

B. The use of phonetic spelling in primers, etc., would be greatly facilitated by a definite system being universally adopted in dictionaries. Will some one offer all dictionaries in the world phonetic types gratis?

8. If it be true that by means of a phonetic spelling children learn to read and write in a few weeks and master even the traditional spelling more readily than by the present method, would it be advisable to teach them the phonetic spelling first?

G. *Omnis autem lingua per linguam ipsam et per aures discenda est, deinde post duos vel tres menses per phoneticas litteras haec cognitio confirmanda, tum demum traditi generis litterae adjungendae.*

Sp. Most certainly! I am at this very time making this experiment with 31 children.

Sc. Yes. This principle is well established. But children differ. Some learn the common spelling without great difficulty. It takes no great powers of mind.

B. It is true that children learn phonetic writing very quickly. My beginners in English—24 boys of 11 years—pronounce, every one of them, after four months, so as to give quite an impression of real English. We use Jespersen's book. I never saw so general a result by non-phonetic methods. Children ought to learn their own language phonetically. This would sharpen their observation.

9. If by this means the rising generation becomes familiar with the phonetic spelling, will it be necessary or desirable that the traditional spelling be retained?

G. *Retinendae autem sunt et retinebuntur traditae litterae; quam diu, nunc incertum.*

Sp. The traditional spelling will become less and less indispensable.

Sc. It will not be necessary from a scientific point of view. It is certain that it will be retained to a considerable extent; and it is even desirable to some extent, for historic and other reasons. But it will be ousted as a daily apparatus.

B. By and by alterations would be made in ordinary spelling to make it finally quite phonetic. Happy grandchildren!

10. Do you think that an agreement on a universal alphabet can be reached satisfactorily by correspondence alone, or is it desirable that an alphabet, intended to be used by all nations for ages to come, be given at the outset the full benefit of oral discussion by the foremost authorities, in the presence of expert type designers, competent to give their opinion on the form of the letters as required for writing and printing, and able to draw them in proper form for the inspection of the delegates?

G. *Internationale INSTITUTO, quinque vel plures annos permanente, opus est atque non solum phoneticis, lexicographis, paedagogis, typographis calligraphisque sed etiam pari numero viris feminisque, ceterorum et maxime practicorum studiorum peritis. Meum, si vultis, nomen adhibeatis, item quae scripsi.*

Sp. Conferences have never yet brought forth any satisfactory result, because they cannot work with the necessary care. A few able talkers are apt to give the decision, while the best and most thorough experts often have no chance to speak at all. In any case the pros and cons would have to be extensively discussed beforehand by correspondence. On the other hand, however, a conference would have the advantage of being able to pass definite resolutions and of imparting to the subject a certain authority in the mind of the outside public.

Sc. Of course conventions must be held for discussion and for the propagation of the scientific idea.

B. Desirable to have oral discussion by real authorities not too bent on extra minute marking out of practically insignificant sounds. My name? With pleasure. Good thing to put one's name to.

#### OBJECTIONS.

1. The general use of phonetic spelling will render the existing literature inaccessible to the rising generation.

This fear arises from two misapprehensions:

(a) It assumes that the average man reads mainly old books. In point of fact the bulk of the average man's reading is not more than a month old.

(b) It assumes that the old spelling will be illegible to those who know only the new and *vice versa*. A brief inspection of existing phonetic systems will dispel this impression, and it is safe to say that the universal notation, being devised with greater care, will offer even less difficulty. The facts in the matter have been well set forth by Prof. Hempl.\*

"We must distinguish between learning to read a system of spelling and learning to use it in writing. The former is easy, the latter more difficult. If a reformed spelling were agreed upon to-day and were taught in all our schools, everybody knows that it would be very easy for school children to learn to read and write it. The old system they would be obliged to learn to read but not to write; in other words, what they would have to do with it would be easy. We are not left to theorize on this subject. It has been repeatedly proved that persons who have first learned to read a phonetic spelling find little difficulty in reading ordinary spelling. On the other hand, adults could and probably would go on reading and writing the old systems as they now do. The new system they would have to learn to read only, and that, being phonetic, would not be difficult. The degree of ease would depend on the character of the new spelling adopted. A phonetic system can be devised that will be very easy for persons to read who are accustomed to our present spelling."

2. The English word "exercise" and the French word "exercice" are now almost identical. Spell them "ekrsaiz" and "egzersis," and you disguise the identity. In other words, phonetic writing would render it more difficult to read cognate languages.

In many cases this would be true; in other cases (shock, choque; fresh, fraîche; fay, fée; fine, fein; house, Haus; Ital. che, Span. que; bagno, bafio) the result would be the opposite. But the difficulty would weigh very little, compared to the immense advantage of being able to pronounce a foreign word correctly at first glance. Moreover the difficulty would exist only for those who try to read foreign languages without having studied them. The student of French is aided by the *resemblance* of "plaisir" to "pleasure" quite as much as he would be by *identity* of spelling.

3. The phonetic spelling would destroy the etymology.

*Bispo, obispo, vescovo, évêque, bishop, bischof* are not written *episkopos*. Is the etymology destroyed? We do not write *eleemosyne* for *alms*; does this prevent us from knowing that the latter is derived from the former? We write *treason*; does that prevent us from tracing the word thru *trahison* to *traditio*? Is it a pity that *capital*, *chattel* and *cattle* are not written alike, to show that they are etymologically the same word?

4. Phoneticians will never agree on the proper sound symbols.

The fact is that the agreement has been growing rapidly. Most phoneticians now use the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association, with only such modifications as do not interfere with legibility. So great is the desire and the willingness to agree, that many use that alphabet not because they think it best but because it is already the most widely accepted.

5. There is no standard pronunciation; hence, even after we have a uniform system of symbols, it will often be impossible to decide which symbol is to be used.

This objection "*schüttet das Kind mit dem Bade aus.*" The essential task of the international conference will be to provide a uniform key to pronunciation for dictionaries. It will not attempt to determine which pronunciation is correct. The key which it adopts is to be used by dictionaries just as the present keys are, and if there are differences of pronunciation, they will be indicated just as they are now.

However, if the phonetic spelling comes into popular use, it is not to be expected that two or three different spellings of the same word will be able to maintain themselves side by side. Even if no deliberate action is taken, it is safe to say that one spelling will drive out the others. It is altogether likely that the example of Ger-

\* Speeches at the Banquet of the Chicago School Principals. Published by the Illinois State Teachers' Association and the Northern Illinois Teachers' Association thru their Committee on Simplified Spelling. David Felmley, Normal, Ill., Chairman. E. O. Vaile, Oak Park, Ill., Secretary. Pp. 26-27.

many, in appointing a commission to decide on a standard pronunciation (see Prof. Grummann's letter, p. 18) will be followed by other nations, at least for the sake of uniformity in spelling. This does not mean that pronunciation will become uniform. Millions of Americans will continue to say dawg and to write dog, and never know the difference.

6. Deliberative assemblies never deliberate. If allowed unlimited freedom, discussion becomes endless; if closure is enforced, the best arguments are often barred out. Hence a congress is not the proper agency to undertake this reform.

Not a *congress* is aimed at, but a *conference*. It is evident that the system must be first thought out carefully by individuals, but in order to secure *agreement*, these individuals must exchange views. The proper agency therefore is a Commission, of not more than 15 or 20 members, enjoying the confidence of the scientific public in their respective countries. This commission should make the preparation of the alphabet its exclusive task until the result is attained. Very likely several meetings, each occupying several months, would be required, the intervals being occupied with correspondence. This commission may of course be aided by a consultative body, which may be quite numerous.

7. Without government authority it will hardly be possible to accomplish anything; yet governments are not competent to act in the matter. How, then, is the commission to be appointed?

The foremost authorities in phonetics are well known. Let them first arrange the commission among themselves, then obtain for its members the mandate of authoritative scientific bodies, and thru these let them finally be invested with governmental authority. The work is hardly of a nature to tempt "the baleful influence of politics."

## THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ASSOCIATION.

Many correspondents request information regarding works on phonetics. To supply such information, and to keep the students of phonetics in touch with one another, is the object of the International Phonetic Association. Every member thereof receives a list of publications on phonetics and is kept informed of new developments by means of the organ of the Association, the *Maître Phonétique*. The membership is about 850, distributed all over the globe (France 101, Great Britain 138, Germany 190, Denmark 115, United States 33, Canada 21). Its management is in charge of a Council, whose present constitution (1904) is as follows:

*Honorary President:* Dr. *Henry Sweet*, Reader at the University, Oxford, England.

*President:* Dr. *Wilhelm Vietor*, Prof. English Philology, Univ. Marburg, Germany

*Vice-Presidents:* *O. Jespersen*, Prof. English Philology, Univ. Copenhagen, Denmark, and *R. J. Lloyd*, Prof. Phonetics, Liverpool College, England.

*Secretary:* Dr. *Paul Passy*, directeur-adjoint à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Paris, France. (Address: 20 rue de la Madeleine, Bourg-la-Reine, Seine, France.)

*Treasurer:* *S. Lund*, 21 Grande Rue, Bourg-la-Reine, Seine, France.

*Administrators:* Dr. *A. Baker*, Prof. French University College, Sheffield, England; *J. Cameron*, Toronto, Canada; *C. Cloos*, Fredrikshavn, Denmark; *R. Lenz*, Prof. English and French, Univ. Santiago, Chile; *E. Monseur*, Prof. Sanscrit and Compar. Philol., Univ. Brussels, Belgium; Prof. *Romeo Lovera*, President School of Commerce, Palermo, Italy, editor *Bollettino della Filologia Moderna*; *E. Nader*, Vienna, Austria; Dr. *A. Rambeau*, Prof. Mod. Languages, M. T. High School, Kansas City, Mo.; *J. Spieser*, Waldhambach, Germany; *Ch. Thudichum*, Prof. Elocution, Univ. Geneva, Switzerland; *W. Tilley*, Marburg, Germany; *A. Vianna*, Lisbon, Portugal; *A. Wallenskiöld*, Prof. Romanic Philol., Univ. Helsingfors, Finland; *A. Western*, Fredriksstad, Norway; *F. Wulff*, Prof. Romanic Languages, Univ. Lund, Sweden.

Dr. A. Rambeau, M. T. High School, 15th St. and Forest Ave., Kansas City, Mo., receives applications for membership in the United States. The yearly dues are 6 francs (\$1.17), which includes subscription for the *Maître Phonétique*.

## SIMILAR MOVEMENTS.

One gratifying result of the inquiry has been the discovery that, aside from the International Phonetic Association, a number of independent movements are going on in the same direction. For these, the International Phonetic Association would evidently offer the most convenient rallying point, and it is earnestly hoped that, by thus uniting all the available forces, enough momentum may be gained to accomplish the object in view. Only three of these movements can here be noted (see, however, foot note, p. 36).

## MAJOR TERRY'S WORK.

On Feb. 12, 1888, a bill, prepared by Major Frank Terry, and aiming at an international phonetic conference was introduced by Hon. William Warner (50th Cong. 1st Sess., H. R., 6895). The effort proved unsuccessful but was renewed on Dec. 19, 1901, when Hon. Francis W. Cushman, of Tacoma, introduced a bill, also prepared by Major Terry (57th Cong., 1st Sess., H. R. 7473) authorizing the President of the United States "to invite the nations of the world to join in a conference for the purpose of formulating an alphabet to represent the elementary sounds of the human voice, which alphabet shall be adapted to the uses of all languages."

On December 28 following, the Everett meeting of the Washington State Teachers' Association, in response to an address by Major Terry, strongly endorsed the bill, on the following grounds:

"We believe such legislation would tend toward accomplishing the following results: (1) Facilitate international communication; (2) aid foreign commerce; (3) facilitate the learning of foreign languages; (4) simplify the learning of the English language by foreign-born citizens; (5) encourage the study of the English language in foreign countries; (6) establish uniform pronunciation of geographic names; (7) provide a simple, exact, co-ordinate, or parallel, orthography of the English language for the benefit of children; (8) fix a high and perfect standard to which spelling reforms, the world over, may aspire."

In an article in the Tacoma Evening News, January 11, 1902, Major Terry quotes Hon. Andrew D. White, Ex-Ambassador to Germany, as follows:

"Our present system of spelling establishes a barrier against the most important agent in the rapid civilization and christianizing of the world. Our language is spreading among the cultured classes in all parts of the world; but, what is more important, it is beginning to take possession of the vast nations of the East. I have no doubt that with the English orthography simplified, the English language would, within a generation or two, become the business language of the more active part of all these great nations. The effect of sending 100,000 missionaries would be but slight when compared with what would be accomplished if our language were thus spread among those nations and they were thus admitted to the treasures of christianizing and civilizing thought contained in it. I rejoice that the leading philanthropists, as well as thoughtful, practical men, are all ranged on one side."\*

Owing to a misprint, the purpose of Mr. Cushman's bill was largely misunderstood. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but never came up for action. It may be doubted whether the attention of Congress could ever be gained sufficiently to obtain even a moderate appropriation. However, the President has abundant authority to act in the matter without express Congressional sanction.

\* In this connection it may be interesting to quote the words of Lord Curzon (Problems in the Far East, 1894):

"The improvement of existing and the creation of new means of communication are rapidly developing a solidarity between the East and the West, which our grandparents would have deemed impossible. Fusion, and not disintegration, will be the keynote of the progress of the coming century. There remain now but few countries to which access has not already been gained . . . and this task will be facilitated by the increasing diffusion of the English tongue. Already spoken in every store from Yokohama to Rangoon, already taught in the military and naval colleges of China and in the schools of Japan and Siam, already employed in the telegraphic service of Japan, China, and Korea, and stamped upon the silver coins that issue from the mints of Osaka and Canton, already used by Chinamen themselves as a means of communication between subjects of different provinces of their mighty empire, it is destined with absolute certainty to be the language of the Far East. Its sound will go out into all lands and its words unto the ends of the world."

Under the heading "The victorious march of the English language," the Deutsche Export-Revue (Berlin, 1904-5, No. 20, 15 Jan.), says:

## MR. RUPPENTHAL'S WORK.

In the Scientific American of August 10, 1901, Mr. J. C. Ruppenthal published an article giving a very clear and complete statement of the problem. With the courteous permission of the author and of the Scientific American the article is reproduced here.

## AN UNIVERSAL ALPHABET.

By J. C. RUPPENTHAL, LL. B., Russell, Kan.

In the National Review of a few months ago, the Chinese Minister to England, Sir Chihchen Lofengluh, in a thoughtful article, said: "The world is in want of a universal written language," and after adding that we are drifting to the Chinese way—symbolic language—adds: "For whether you know it or not, or wish it or not, you are drifting toward a universal language in obedience to the law of evolution." About the same time the American journals stated, as a news item: "There is now a conference of a European Academy of Science at Wiesbaden on the possibility of all nations adopting a uniform scientific and commercial language. They favor Latin for scientific and English for commercial use." A few years ago the students of Volapuk had high hopes that their exact, scientific language would soon be *the* world-language that every person of average intelligence would know in addition to his mother-tongue.

In this age of electric communication and rapid transportation the "wide, wide world" of old has shrunken to inconsiderable bounds, and all men are neighbors. The events of the last three years have brought this home to the American people as never before. The close inter-relations of the peoples of every part of the globe, and more especially our wider sphere in the Orient, as well as in the Antilles, have given us renewed interest in the matter of universal speech, and impressed us with its importance and desirability to the diplomat, the statesman, the soldier, the merchant, the missionary, the traveler, and the scientist.

It is not lack of appreciation of an universal tongue—written, spoken, and understood everywhere—that has prevented Volapuk and similar artificial languages from coming into general use. At least one reason may be found within the very name—*Volapuk*. Here is an aspirant to the throne of the world, yet what is its name? No person whose mother-tongue is English, can tell, until he has been taught the pronunciation of the word *Volapuk*. At the very threshold of the study, here was a great stumbling-block. With six sounds represented by *o*, seven by *a*, and five by *u* in our language (and the *ü* umlaut totally foreign), the first requisite in learning the new speech was to find out definitely the phonic values of the letters used. There are 252 possible pronunciations of the letters, *v-o-l-a-p-ü-k*, and 756 if the accent be varied.

The investigation of the principles of a progressive movement sometimes reveals the need of a primary reform to which the investigated movement is but secondary. Thus it appears that in attempting to establish an universal language, the beginning should be with the elementary sounds used in human speech, and the characters or letters representing such sounds. A simple, scientific, universal alphabet is needed in the making of an universal language, or the reformation and simplification of those existing. English, with its 26 signs used to represent from 40 to 45 different sounds, has especial need of an universal alphabet to simplify it and to extend its use, whether in Cuba, Luzon, or elsewhere.

An universal alphabet should be based on the principle of representing each sound by a single sign which should stand for one (and only one) simple elementary sound. Every sound made by the human voice and used, either alone or combined with other sounds, to express an idea, should have a character to represent it. Into such an alphabet all written languages, whether living or dead, could be transliterated. The dialects of unlettered races would find in this a written and printed form to meet every possible demand. No further sets of arbitrary characters would need to be devised, as has been done for the American Indian, African and South Sea tribes. To the aborigine, or to him whose vernacular is a local dialect, the universal alphabet would be as acceptable as though designed for his especial use, while to the scientist it would be an incalculable saving of valuable time and effort if he were not obliged

"The British press has good cause to refer to the Hull Conference as another illustration of the victorious march of the English language towards the position of the undisputed world language. An overwhelming majority of the commission, presided over by a Frenchman, voted for English instead of French, which has hitherto been the diplomatic language. The same was true of the great conference which took place in Berlin in 1879. In view of the vast development of the United States as a world power, and in view of the enormous extent of the British colonies, it is plain that English must sooner or later be left without competitors as the world language."

to learn a new alphabet for each race or tribe. It may be remarked parenthetically that Prof. Richard T. Colburn, in his lecture on "Improvident Civilization," places diversity of languages among the "eight great wastes of vital force in our times."

The adoption of Occidental ways by the Japanese and the constant inroad of Western ideas in China—whether dismembered or intact—make it probable that the word sign method in vogue among Mongolians will be superseded by something less complex. Will it be English?

The vast numbers of people who speak English, estimated to-day at 130,000,000; their wide dispersion over the globe; their extensive literature and numerous periodicals; the ceaseless advance of their speech over new territory and its adoption by ever-increasing hosts, place this once-insular language at the head in the march for universal lingual dominion. But even Chauvinists on the subject may see that this dream of supremacy is far from realization unless the illogical spelling of English—the quintessence of absurdity—is changed. The ghosts of departed sounds that now troop along as silent letters in most English words, the many characters and combinations standing for one sound, and the many sounds represented by a single letter, may be insuperable obstacles to the speedy acceptance of English by other nations. The New York Press said about two years ago: "English is becoming the language of the commercial world. China, Japan and Mexico have lately taken it up in the schools." (Now we must add Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines.) "The queer and sometimes awkward features of English orthography are the only blocks to the general acceptance of our tongue in commercial dealings." At present an English-speaking child must first learn a quadruple alphabet, consisting of capital and lower-case Roman letters, and large and small script—104 different characters which must be recognized at first sight—to say nothing of italics, black-letter and display type. The doorway into the temple of learning is almost choked with rubbish which even the smallest toddlers must climb over, or

"Knowledge to their eyes her ample page,  
Rich with the spoils of time, will ne'er unroll."

The student now finds ten or more standard English dictionaries. In each he needs to learn a key to pronunciation—really a new alphabet—before he can freely and fully use the work.

A scientific universal alphabet would remedy all this, and from the outset would be the standard of pronunciation in all the dictionaries of every language, until such time as the language itself (where written) would be transliterated, needing no indications of proper pronunciation other than the simple (universal) letters composing the word. To-day our newspapers and magazines rarely indicate the pronunciation of new words—even before they are generally added in supplements to dictionaries—because this cannot be done except in a roundabout and unsatisfactory way. As soon as a universal alphabet is adopted by representative scientific bodies, or authorized by law, or both, fonts of the new type will be found in almost every printing establishment, as italics now are, and linotype machines will be built to meet the new demand. First, the new alphabet would be used in the public prints for pronunciations, foreign proper names, etc. Then it would be taken up for international correspondence, for names of ships, for signboards of railway stations, streets in large cities, etc. It would speedily be used in international publications like those of the Bureau of American Republics.

It may be said further that the English-speaking student, after mastering 104 letters in his own language, besides numerals and marks (punctuating, diacritical and arbitrary) is still among the breakers near shore, if he incline to linguistics. For each European language that he takes up, he must learn another double alphabet for reading, or quadruple, if writing be added. This is true even when the Roman letters are used, for their phonic value is different from that given them in English. The Oriental languages are yet more difficult and complicated.

The objection that any change of alphabet—or of spelling perhaps—will render the vast accumulations of literature, especially English, as difficult of access as if now in a foreign tongue, is met by the reply that the progress of printing is such as to insure the prompt publishing in the new way, of all that is valuable at least, whatever alphabet or spelling may be adopted. The improvement in machinery is so great and so rapid that the cost will not be excessive in all literature that interests the masses, and will probably decrease in a short time in those works that interest the scientific few. All the stores of the present time may still be studied by the patient searcher after truth with every advantage he now has. The general use of such universal alphabet would revolutionize the curricula of the common schools and of higher institutions as well. All of the time now wasted on the study of spelling could be devoted to some other branch that would be as effective for mental drill, and yet would be useful. Most of the time now devoted to reading—or, rather, its rudiments—in the elementary grades would be saved, to the gain of the pupil in actual know-

ledge. This would shorten the year of work in the common schools and enable pupils to enter high schools at an earlier age, or, perhaps, better still, would give the time needed for industrial training, which is now not to be thought of. The high schools and colleges would find the languages simplified, particularly in the elementary work.

It is not necessary now to determine when, where, or by whom the universal alphabet shall be devised. It may be that a world's parliament can be held for consideration of this subject at some of the future international expositions. For the present it is sufficient to say that the linguist, the philologist, the oculist, the orthographer and other scientists should unite their learning to produce an alphabet which will be complete—which will correctly represent all the sounds of living tongues and dialects, and of the dead languages so far as can now be determined—which will be simple and pleasing in form, suitable for writing, printing and engraving—with capital and small letters alike, except in size, and with cursive, printed and engraved forms differing as little as possible, having due regard to their several needs and purposes; which shall minimize the strain on the eyes that comes from similarity of characters, hair lines, etc., and which shall blaze the way for an universal language that shall make feasible “the Parliament of Man, the federation of the world.” The position of the vocal organs in producing the various sounds, from the full A (h) of Indo-European languages, to the Hottentot click, must be definitely determined and recorded. Then, with an universal system of punctuation and accent, any person who has once learned the alphabet will be able to read correctly any transliterated language, though he may not understand a word of it.

#### MR. VAILE'S WORK (JOINT COMMITTEE).

Thru the exertions of Mr. E. O. Vaile, a veteran educator and editor of educational journals, and one of the most tireless workers for phonetic reform, the National Educational Association invited the American Philological Association and the Modern Language Association to a conference to devise a uniform key to pronunciation for dictionaries and text-books. The conference met at Boston on July 9, 1903, and as a result of its deliberations a “Joint Committee” was appointed, consisting of Prof. Calvin Thomas, Head of Department of Germanic Languages, Columbia University, as chairman; Prof. George Hempl, at that time president both of the Philological Association and of the Modern Language Association; Dr. Charles P. G. Scott, a lexicographer of large experience; Prof. O. F. Emerson, secretary of the American Dialect Society and an investigator of the history of English sounds; and Mr. Vaile.

After repeated meetings, the report of the committee, in the preparation of which Prof. Hempl is said to have “pulled the stroke oar,” appeared on September 1, 1904. It is a masterly discussion of the problem and constitutes one of the most important landmarks in the phonetic movement.

Various correspondents have asked whether the Joint Committee has not practically accomplished all that the International Phonetic Conference is designed to accomplish. First of all, an American committee, representing only one-half of the English-speaking world, can not expect that the other half, the British empire, will accept a result in which it has had no voice. In fact, the Committee calls its report “preliminary,” and all its members will be found among the endorsers of the international conference. If the makers of dictionaries are to adopt a uniform notation, it must be invested with such authority as to afford to them a reasonable certainty that it will not be changed again within calculable time. Evidently the authority of an international commission would weigh far more than that of any other. If the phonetic spelling is to be gradually extended into daily use, it can only be done by concentrating the efforts of all its advocates on a single system. Evidently an international system would possess far greater momentum than a merely national one. The great aid which it would afford in the study of foreign languages would make it familiar to a great multitude of persons who would regard it with apathy or even aversion when applied to their own language. Above all, it must be remembered that the sounds of the leading European languages are for the most part nearly identical, and that there is a decided movement in all the advanced nations to adopt phonetic alphabets. If each nation does this for itself, we shall be confronted with the dilemma that either needless differences will be permanently established between the languages, or, if there is to be identity of writing to correspond with the practical identity of sounds, certain nations will be forced to abandon their laboriously constructed systems in order to conform to the system of another nation. If one reform is a painful operation, is it humane to subject the speakers of certain languages to two reforms? The obvious precaution, the reasonable, neighborly, courteous method is an agreement by the common consent of all the nations concerned, and now is the time to secure it, while as yet none of the contending alphabets have found any degree of acceptance.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Previous to the issue of the present circular, the expenses of the inquiry, considerably over \$100, were borne by the originator of the movement. To meet the expenses of the present circular, contributions have been received as follows, in chronological order:

Dr. T. A. Crampton, Internal Revenue, Treasury, Washington, D. C. ....	\$1.00
Dr. Thomas M. Balliet, Dean, School of Pedagogy, N. Y. University .....	5.00
Prof. A. Marshall Elliott, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore .....	1.00
Mr. G. K. Gilbert, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington.....	5.00
Mr. A. Ingraham, 4 Bryant St., Cambridge, Mass. ....	1.00
Mr. Matthew N. Howard, 488 Nostrand Ave., Brooklyn.....	10.00
Mr. J. C. Ruppenthal, County Attorney, Russell, Kansas.....	1.00
Mr. Walter Harvey Weed, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington.....	2.00
Prof. C. C. Ayer, State University, Boulder, Colorado.....	5.00
Prof. John R. Scott, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. ....	5.00
Mrs. Helen S. Moss, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington.....	1.00
Prof. J. S. Nollen, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. ....	2.00
Prof. W. K. Prentice, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J. ....	1.00
Prof. James A. Beatley, English High School, Boston, Mass.....	1.00
Prof. George M. Bartlett, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.....	1.00
Prof. George M. Howe, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. ....	1.00
Pres. Charles Wm. Super, Ohio University, Athens, O. ....	1.00
Prof. Herbert Z. Kip, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. ....	1.00
Prof. George Hempel, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. ....	5.00
Mr. N. J. Werner, 3721 Cottage Ave., St. Louis, Mo. ....	1.00
Prof. S. F. Emmons, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington.....	5.00
Mr. J. G. Ewert, Hillsboro, Kansas.....	1.00
 Total Contributions.....	 \$57.00

To defray the remainder of the expenses, it was decided to invite advertisements. As these were manifestly offered more from interest in the cause than from hope of profit, they are specially commended to the reader's attention. No price was fixed. The sums contributed in response to this invitation were as follows:

Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York (Standard Dictionary) .....	\$20.00
G. & C. Merriam Co., Springfield, Mass. (Webster's International Dictionary) .....	20.00
Appleton & Co., New York (French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Latin Dictionaries) .....	20.00
Ginn & Co., Boston, Mass. (Five Spanish Texts) .....	20.00
American Book Co., New York (Rhetoric, French, German) .....	20.00
Perry Pictures Co., Malden, Mass. ....	10.00
Hinds, Noble & Eldredge, New York (International French-English, English-French Dictionary) .....	5.00
William R. Jenkins, New York (Texts of French and other foreign languages) .....	5.00
Fisk Teachers' Agencies, 4 Ashburton Place, Boston.....	5.00
Bridge Teachers' Agency, 2A Beacon St., Boston.....	5.00
Union Safe Deposit Vaults, 40 State St., Boston.....	5.00
City Trust Co., 40 State St., Boston.....	5.00
Henry Romeike, Inc., Press Clippings Bureau, 33 Union Square, New York .....	5.00
Mott, John M., R.F.D. No. 2, South Haven, Mich. (Fonoloji & Fonotaip) .....	2.50
Blackmer, O. C., Oak Park, Ill. (Pronouncing Bible) .....	1.00
I. C. Ruppenthal, Lawyer, Russell, Kansas.....	1.00
 Total Advertisements.....	 \$149.50
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\* Authors of phonetic alphabets.

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